

Israeli minister to be charged with bribery

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's attorney general announced Sunday that he had decided to charge Interior Minister Arye Deri with bribery and fraud. The attorney general, Mr. Yosef Harish, announced to the minister of interior, Mr. Arye Deri, that ... it was decided that the investigation material obligated presentation of an indictment against the interior minister and others, a statement issued by the justice ministry said. "In the draft indictment ... are included charges of receiving bribes, fraud and abuse of the trust placed in a public servant," the statement said. The justice ministry did not specify who else would be indicted. It said Mr. Deri had three weeks to show sufficient cause why he should not be charged. The investigation against Mr. Deri began when he was a minister in Israel's previous right-wing Likud government. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party swept Likud from power in June 1992 elections. Mr. Deri is the only full cabinet minister from the ultra-religious Shas party in Mr. Rabin's government coalition, which also includes the left-wing Meretz Party. Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari, asked if the government coalition was threatened, told Reuters: "I don't think there's any anxiety because basically there's no surprise here."

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Palestinians object to Kurtzer appointment

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A senior adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks has objected to a reported key U.S. diplomatic appointment as pro-Israel. Daniel Kurtzer, a senior State Department official, was named to replace Moly Williamson as U.S. consul in Arab East Jerusalem when she leaves the post in July, Israeli Radio reported. Mr. Kurtzer, who is Jewish, is seen by Palestinians as pro-Israel. "Palestinians usually see the U.S. as not a fair partner in the talks," Azmi Bshara, a member of the Palestinian committee monitoring the peace talks, told the Associated Press.

Quake rocks Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — An earthquake struck Sunday in northern Israel, shaking tables and chairs, but causing no damage or injuries, an official said. Israeli Radio said tremors were felt in the coastal cities of Haifa and Acco, inland in Nazareth and Safed and parts of southern Lebanon, at about 13:15 (10:15 GMT). Ami Shapira of the Israel seismological institute said the quake's epicentre was in the Mediterranean Sea off the South Lebanese coast. He said it measured 4 on the Richter scale.

Ishaq Khan snubbed

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's Lower House of Parliament, to a snub to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, decided on Sunday to set up a committee to recommend on cutting his powers. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is engaged in a bitter power struggle with the president, welcomed the surprise move to the national assembly as "a good step in the right direction."

China beats Iraq

CHENGDU (AFP) — China beat Iraq 2-1 in their second-leg game here Sunday, but it was the losing Iraqis who will enter the second round of the Asian Zone World Cup qualifying tournament. The win gave the Chinese 12 points in the round, just one less than Iraq but not enough to advance. Iraq, which had clinched its berth in the second round on Friday with a 4-0 win over Pakistan, rested a number of its top players for Sunday's match, which was meaningless for the side. Earlier in the day, Jordan trounced winless Pakistan 5-0 in another Group A match (see page 9).

Ramos expects Philippines peace

NEW YORK (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos says he does not expect a repeat of the military coup attempts or violence from communist insurgents and Muslim separatists that plagued predecessor Cory Aquino, according to Newsweek international magazine. Mr. Ramos marks his first year in office June 30. "Since I was elected we've been able to bring leaders of the Muslim secessionists and the military rebels to the conference table and we've had a meeting abroad with communist insurgency leaders," he said.

Rebels close to Baku

BAKU (R) — Rebels advanced on Azerbaijan's capital Baku Sunday as the country's temporary leader Geidar Aliyev appealed to fugitive President Abulfaz Elchibey to return to attend an emergency session of parliament. A Reuters television crew said 300 armed supporters of rebel leader Suret Guseinov had advanced to within 4 kilometres of the capital. (see page 8).

Polisario moves towards referendum

ALGIERS (AP) — The Polisario Front, the guerrilla group that waged a long, costly war with Morocco for independence of the Western Sahara, said Sunday it has lifted its "reserves" on part of the U.N. project to hold a referendum this year. Polisario leader Bachir Mustapha Sayed told Algeria's official APS news agency that the organisation has lifted its reserves on the process aimed at identifying Saharawis for the vote.

Bilateral talks restart tomorrow

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Tenth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks will resume Tuesday after a weekend recess and a one-day delay caused by U.S. State Department preoccupations, Jordan's chief negotiator Faysel Tarawneh said Sunday. Dr. Tarawneh, who is also the Kingdom's ambassador to the U.S., said the State Department was hosting an American-Mexican trade conference on Monday and hence the one-day delay.

In comments carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Tarawneh said the Jordanian side was still discussing a draft agenda with the Israelis and issues such as water rights, family reunions and Israeli-occupied Jordanian territories.

Commenting on the appointment of Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Edward Djerejian, a key American official in the peace talks, as Washington's ambassador to Israel, Dr. Tarawneh said: "The important thing is that the declared American commitment to be an unbiased partner in the peace process should remain as it is."

Meanwhile, Palestinian negotiators are accusing the U.S. of siding with Israel in the peace process and undermining their negotiating positions. The head of the Palestinian team in the bilateral talks with Israel called for a reform of the peace process, attacked Washington and warned the Palestinians were growing increasingly disillusioned.

"The process has lost its credibility and its straightforwardness and it needs reforms. The situation must be corrected," Haidar Abdul Shafi said on the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) television late Saturday.

"Israel must be forced to respect the principles of the peace process and the United States must adopt a position that is compatible with the basis of the negotiating process," he said. "The U.S. attitude reflects a complete bias for the Israeli side and reduces the eligibility of Washington as a sponsor of the negotiations. I am very resentful of the U.S. stand which will not help establish peace."

Dr. Abdul Shafi said there was overwhelming support from the Palestinian people when the peace process was launched at the Madrid conference of October 1991.

"Their support has begun to recede due to lack of progress in the negotiations. Another reason

is that everything is in Israel's grip and it continues to change the face of the land," he said.

Dr. Shafi said he did not expect a joint declaration of principles to emerge from the current round of negotiations.

The Clinton administration has been far from impartial, said an official with the Palestinian delegation.

"The change of administration has been very bad for us," he said privately.

"We are not so naive as to think the Americans would be impartial, but we did believe they would try to keep a balance between us and the Israelis," he said.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said: "The Americans who say they would act as partners in the whole peace process completely went over to the Israeli side at the ninth round of talks" from April 27 to May 13.

"The ninth session was the worst," the Palestinian source said.

"We agreed to take part because the Americans made us a number of promises, but they hardly kept any of them."

He said Washington promised that Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories since 1967, or those expelled in December, would be allowed to return and that elderly and ill prisoners would be released.

Of the Palestinians expelled since 1967, just 30 have been allowed back.

Also, the United States vowed to play an active, but impartial role in the talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, the source told AFP.

Washington said it would try to persuade oil-producing Arab countries to resume aid to the Palestinians which was cut off after the Gulf war, the Palestinian source said.

Palestinian-U.S. relations fell into crisis after the ninth round of talks, during which Washington presented a blueprint for autonomy in the occupied territories.

The Palestinians rejected the proposals, saying Washington was toying the Israeli line and had even cooperated with Israel in preparing the document.

U.S. officials were irritated by the tone of a letter they received from the Palestinians before the start of the tenth session, a U.S. source said.

The Palestinians called on the Clinton administration to state its position on its role in the peace process, and particularly its view on the future of Jerusalem.

Israel eases entry ban, to take back sick exile

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel Sunday eased a three-month ban on Palestinians from the occupied territories entering the country, agreeing to allow in Palestinians aged over 50 years, Israeli Radio reported.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced the move during the weekly cabinet meeting.

Israel sealed off the Gaza Strip and West Bank at the end of March after Palestinians killed 15 Israelis during the month.

That prevented 120,000 Palestinians from reaching their jobs in Israel, but the occupation authorities have since granted work permits to about 45,000 Palestinians.

Colonel Hanan Robin, military administration spokesman, said only a few hundred Palestinians aged over 50 had been employed in Israel before the ban. The majority were aged between 25 and 35.

Palestinians have protested bitterly at loss of earnings and particularly the ban on entering Arab East Jerusalem.

Israel also said Sunday it would allow a mentally ill Palestinian expellee to return home from a makeshift camp in South Lebanon where he has languished along with 395 other men since their expulsion six months ago.

"The ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) made a request and on humanitarian grounds we approved it. He is mentally ill," said Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami.

He said he did not know the sick man's name. He added his return would be coordinated with the ICRC.

"We are in contact with all parties for the return of all the deportees and in particular those who need medical treatment as is the case here," said Pierre Ryter, deputy chief of the ICRC delegation in Israel.

The expellee had recently attacked several of his fellow exiles with an axe, Mr. Ben-Ami said.

Palestinian sources named the man as Ali Abu Ajweh, 37, from Bureij refugee camp who had been a business lecturer at the Islamic University in the Gaza Strip until Israel expelled him.

Family members said Dr. Abu Ajweh was healthy at the time of the expulsion.

On Friday the exiles appealed to the Red Cross to evacuate sick men from their camp, including Mr. Abu Ajweh.

Three Jordanian doctors visited the exiles last Thursday. They said 15 were suffering from disorders in joints caused by torture in Israeli jails and needed urgent surgery, and eight others required laboratory and X-ray tests.

Israel expelled 415 Palestinians as alleged Muslims activists last Dec. 17.

Nineteen expellees, five sick and 14 Israel said were expelled by mistake, were evacuated from the camp in January aboard helicopters in two operations arranged by the ICRC.



PRINCESS VISITS BOSNIANS: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday visits Bosnian refugees hosted by Jordan (Petra photo)

Second Bosnian group arrives

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The second group of Bosnian Muslim refugees arrived here Sunday, bringing with them tales of untold misery, suffering and brutality inflicted upon them by Serbs and Croats in former Yugoslavia.

The plane-load of around 250 men, women and children joined 180 compatriots who arrived Friday for temporary shelter in Jordan pending an end to the bloody conflict in their homeland.

Receiving the group upon its arrival was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and other members of the Royal family as well as senior officials (see separate story).

Many of the refugees, housed at a school in the Joffeh neighbourhood of the capital, were former detainees in Serb and Croat prisoner camps and, by their own accounts, suffered brutality unhealed of since World War II and the Vietnam War.

Their releases at varying points in time since June last year came after an international outcry sparked by television footage vividly establishing the existence of Nazi-like prison camps and the Serb policy of "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims.

Camps in Croatia were evacuated ahead of what is expected to be a Croatian influx into Croatia from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Croats and Bosnian Muslims have been allies against the Serbs in theory, but the two sides have been locked in an intermittent battle for territory in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as Croatia.

(Continued on page 10)

Regent denounces forced migration

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Sunday Jordan does not back any policies that could encourage or force people to emigrate.

He noted that Jordan's hosting of displaced people from the former Yugoslavia came as a result of a humanitarian gesture and in agreement with the authorities of the Bosnia-Herzegovina in the former Yugoslav republic.

"Our aim of hosting the displaced people is to offer them a better treatment and way of life than that accorded to them at the transit camps," said the Regent in a press statement upon welcoming the second and last group of Bosnian families who arrived at dawn Sunday the Queen Alia International Airport (see separate story).

"The Bosnian families' stay in Jordan is transitional and temporary until they have been repatriated to their own homeland where they can live in dignity," the Regent said.

Other countries in Europe and the Arab World had taken a similar step in hosting the Bosnians, he said. Jordan will treat the Bosnian families with respect and offer them attention and service as ordinary citizens and not as refugees, he said.

Asked whether the Bosnians would be offered vocational training, the Regent said: "Everyone of them is welcome to work in his or her own specialisation. But we have noticed that most of the stu-

dents are inclined to attain university education."

In response to a question on the delay on the part of the international community to come to the help to the Bosnian population or finding a solution to their ordeal, the Regent said that the international community was adopting a double standard policy in dealing with world issues.

"It is regrettable to see persecution continuing against ethnic groups who continue to suffer in horrible conditions," the Regent said.

The refugees were received upon arrival by his Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, His Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, Prince Raad Ibo Zeid, Minister of Information Maan Abu Nowar and other officials as well as Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abadi.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Sunday visited the centre hosting the Muslim Bosnians.

Princess Sarvath inspected the centre's various facilities and expressed satisfaction with the level of services offered to them.

Princess Sarvath was received upon arrival by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abadi, who is also the secretary general of the Jordan Hashemite Charitable Organisation.

Princess Sarvath also visited Bosnians being treated from wounds and injuries at Al Bashir Hospital.

Kuwait says Tunisia seeks improved ties

KUWAIT (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali expressed a wish for improved relations with Kuwait in a letter delivered on Sunday to the emir, a Kuwaiti official said. The Tunisian leader said in the letter he sought an end to "negative effects" caused by the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Cabinet Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil said in a statement. The message was handed to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, by visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia, the statement carried by the official Kuwait News Agency said. Mr. Ben Yahia also held a separate meeting with the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. He leaves on Monday after a two-day visit described by some Kuwaiti members of parliament as inappropriate because of Tunisian sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis. Mr. Dakhil said Mr. Ben Ali "expressed Tunisia's keenness to end the negative effects left by the Iraqi aggression against and occupation of Kuwait, and to establish a new base for relations between the countries of the region based on international legitimacy and adherence to U.N. resolutions."

Gores visit King and Queen; IMF pledges continued help

WASHINGTON (Petra) — U.S. Vice-President Al Gore and his wife Sunday visited Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor at their residence in Washington. King Hussein and Mr. Gore discussed issues of common interest, Jordanian-American relations and regional and international developments. Mr. and Mrs. Gore had lunch with Their Majesties at their residence.

King Hussein also received the executive chief of the International Monetary Fund

(IMF), Michel Camdessus. The King underlined the importance of cooperation among world states to achieve comprehensive development. Mr. Camdessus commended Jordan's efforts to economic reform and its positive relations with international bodies.

He said the IMF admires Jordan's achievements, adding that the IMF is willing to offer every possible assistance to Jordan to enable it to achieve its economic objectives.

Regent congratulates King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein congratulating him on the new Hijra year and wishing him good health and happiness. On the occasion, Prince Hassan recalled King Hussein's generous contributions last year to restore the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosques in occupied Jerusalem as well as mosques of the Prophet Mohammad's companions in Jordan. The Crown Prince praised King Hussein's efforts to ensure broader public participation and to foster the march of democracy, and his ongoing endeavours to advocate a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region. He noted that Jordan has always advocated the principles of development, democracy and human rights.

Aideed on the run

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed remained on the run Sunday as the U.N. abandoned plans to drop food in his backyard when U.N. peacekeepers supposed to guard it said they feared sniper fire.

Hundreds of Somalis demonstrated for and against United Nations peacekeepers in General Aideed's jittery southern Mogadishu stronghold.

Pro-Aideed demonstrators held banners denouncing U.S. President Bill Clinton and the U.N. forces and vowed that they would die before allowing their leader to be captured.

"They must leave our country. They came not to support us but to destroy and kill us," said Mohammad Hassan Farah, surrounded by a chanting crowd on a piece of wasteland in this devastated city.

"Medicine not missiles," read another poster, a reference to attacks by U.S. forces over the past week on Aideed targets in Mogadishu.

In another part of the city several kilometres away, a few hundred supporters of Aideed's rival and interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad staged a pro-U.N. demonstration.

They chanted "Long live the U.N. Somali mission" UNOSOM and "We don't want Aideed as a dictator."

The pro-U.N. demonstration was in Medina district, an enclave of Mr. Ali Mahdi's supporters.

The U.N. plan to drop food in an Aideed stronghold in Mogadishu was abandoned when Pakistani troops supposed to guard it said they feared coming under sniper fire.

It would have been the first handout to areas controlled by Geo. Aideed since his militia attacked and killed 24 Pakistanis on June 5, provoking a military showdown with United Nations troops and an arrest warrant for Gen. Aideed.

A U.N. spokesman said distribution was postponed until Monday because of "misunder-

standings." Pakistani troops assembled to guard the handout said they feared distribution points had not been cleared of snipers.

"I'm responsible for my 20 men," said Pakistani Captain Zahid Hussain at Mogadishu port, where 70 tonnes of grain had been assembled to give to the needy.

"I have to get them home alive, and there are some feeding sites where adequate security can't be provided because they're surrounded by high ground, and I don't want a repeat of the June 5 incident with my men."

Gen. Aideed disappeared on Thursday when the U.N. said it wanted to arrest him but his gunmen have carried out daily sniping attacks on U.N. positions.

The U.N. accuses him of masterminding the ambush and violating a series of agreements to place his heavy weapons in areas open to inspection and to disarm his militia.

Rumours abound over his whereabouts, U.N. military officials say privately they are fairly certain where he is holed up. But they say it could take days or more for him to surface long enough to be apprehended safely.

U.N. special envoy Jonathan Howe was urged Gen. Aideed to surrender.

Somali refugees arrive in Aden

Some 250 Somali "boat people" have recently arrived in Yemen seeking refuge and none of them are followers of Gen. Aideed, a U.N. official said Sunday. Carlos Zaccagnini told AFP the Somalis arrived in Aden aboard small boats after a five-day trip. Reports that some of them are partisans of General Aideed are totally unfounded, Mr. Zaccagnini, the representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

Tawfik Wannas, another UNHCR official, told AFP that 100 of the Somalis were temporarily settled in refugee camps in Aden suburbs.

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Sudanese rebels enter fresh truce agreement

KAIROBI (Agencies) — For the second time in four weeks, the two main factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have agreed to stop fighting and facilitate relief work in southern Sudan. The movement's officials here said Sunday.

John Garang's mainstream SPLA and Riek Machar's breakaway SPLA-United met in Nairobi on Saturday under the chairmanship of the U.S. ambassador to Sudan, Donald Petterson.

They agreed on a truce and to appoint representatives to review humanitarian needs in the conflict areas of Ayod, Kongor, West and Yudi.

The two sides agreed on a ceasefire on May 27 to allow urgent delivery of relief aid but they have since accused each other of violating the agreement.

The SPLA has been fighting the government in Khartoum since 1983 demanding a secular Sudan and an end to domination of the mainly Islamist and Christian south by the Muslim, Arabised north.

But the movement split into two leading factions in August after two SPLA leader Riek Machar and Lam Akol accused Colonel Garang of dictatorship.

The United Nations has estimated there are 1.5 million people in southern Sudan in need of food, medicine and other relief supplies. But the triangle formed by the towns of Kongor, Ayod and Waat — about 450 kilometres from Sudan's border with Kenya — is said to have the highest concentration of severely malnourished people.

Relief Workers have estimated that at least hundreds — probably thousands — of people died in April and May when rebel factional fighting swept through the area, closing or destroying feeding centres.

The two SPLA factions agreed to withdraw by June 5 from that area but they never did and each blamed each other for the plan's failure.

On Saturday, they signed an agreement that each side would send a representative into the area at least once a week to check on relief efforts and make sure the military withdrawal is occurring.

There are an estimated 40,000 people in that region the U.N. says would die without food. There are probably twice that many in the surrounding countryside whose medical conditions and food needs are unknown, according to the U.N.'s World Food Programme.



RESPIRE AFTER ORDEAL: Bosnian refugees hosted by Jordan have breakfast at their housing quarters in Amman after their arrival early Sunday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Nathan plans Libya trip

TUNIS (AP) — Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan said Sunday he planned to visit Libya for discussions with Muammar Qadhafi on Jewish-Libyan relations and the crisis between Libya and the United States over the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Mr. Nathan, who has been in Tunis talking to Palestinian leaders, said his trip to Libya was aimed at promoting "the new Libyan position."

"I also want to check myself the news that Israelis will be allowed to visit Libya and discuss arrangements for a Jewish-Muslim conference to be hosted by Libya," he said.

Mr. Nathan said he applied for the visa at the Libyan embassy in Paris and was told to wait for it in Tunis.

"I hope I will get it soon and plan to go down as soon as I get it," he said. Hostile relations between Libya and Israel were eased a bit earlier this month when a group of Muslim pilgrims from Libya was allowed to visit occupied Jerusalem.

"I am looking forward to meeting Qadhafi and discuss his offers to allow Israelis to go to Libya and also his problems with the United States," he said.

Libya is under U.N. air, arms and diplomatic sanctions for refusing to turn over two suspects in the bombing of Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, to Western authorities.

Mr. Nathan arrived in Tunis Thursday and had meetings with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and other PLO officials.

He said his talks with Mr. Arafat focused on the Arab-Israeli peace talks, which he described as "moving in slow motion" since they were launched in October 1991 in Madrid.

"We must speed it up," he said, "and the only way to do that is to talk directly to the PLO."

Israel refuses to deal with the PLO.

Mr. Nathan said the Israeli government is actually talking to the PLO indirectly through the Palestinian negotiators, who receive instructions from the PLO. But he said if talks are to be speeded up, the Jewish state should enter direct negotiations.

Mr. Nathan, 64, is a veteran peace activist in Israel. He served prison sentences in 1989 and 1991 for violating an Israeli law against meeting representatives of the PLO. That law was lifted in January.

Saliva links WTC bombing suspect to letter — sources

NEW YORK (R) — Saliva from one of the World Trade Centre bombing suspects has been found on the sealing flap of an envelope containing a letter claiming responsibility for the blast, sources close to the case said this week.

The sources said Nidal Ayyad, a 25-year-old Kuwaiti-born engineer charged with taking part in the bombing, was matched to the envelope via a DNA test.

"Ayyad flunked the saliva test," a source told Reuters.

The letter was received by the New York Times on March 2 claiming responsibility from a group calling itself the "Liberation Army Fifth Battalion."

When Mr. Ayyad was arrested on March 10, federal agents also found computer equipment that had previously been linked to the letter, which claimed responsibility for the explosion and said the group was protesting against American aid to Israel.

But an attorney for Mr. Ayyad said he did not believe the saliva test linked Mr. Ayyad to the letter.

"At this stage, that's contrary to our preliminary investigation," Atiq Ahmad told Reuters.

The attorney said he had not been informed of the results of the saliva samples taken from his client.

"We don't have those reports yet," he said. "We will be denying the report," he added.

Mr. Ahmad said he would call on DNA experts to challenge any scientific genetic evidence if federal prosecutors came up with an analysis match.

Mr. Ahmad also said that he would seek to suppress a brief statement Mr. Ayyad made to police from inclusion in any trial.

The lawyer paraphrased Mr. Ayyad as telling police, when asked about the blast: "I'll answer whatever you want."

Mr. Ahmad said that while he did not feel this was incriminating, he was moving to suppress it in any event.

Separately, sources told Reuters that further arrests in the case were expected soon.

Kuwait to honour King Fahd

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait wants to invite King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for a visit to honour his role in helping liberate the emirate from Iraqi occupation, a senior official was quoted Sunday as saying.

"We hope the visit will take place very soon because His Highness the Emir and the Kuwaiti people want to have the chance to honour the king for his great role," Kuwait Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah said.

Sheikh Saud made the remarks in Bahrain at the end of a one-week tour of Gulf states including Saudi Arabia, Al Seyssah and its sister paper Arab Times reported.

Former U.S. President George Bush and former senior colleagues made a triumphal visit to Kuwait in April. They received lavish tributes for their leadership of the 28-nation military coalition that ousted Iraqi troops in February 1991.

King Fahd did not require an invitation to visit Kuwait because it was his country, Sheikh Saud was quoted as saying.

"But the invitation has to go through diplomatic channels because we want this visit to take place as soon as possible so the Kuwaiti people could have the chance to honour this great leader."

U.N. supports multi-party Afghan cabinet

KABUL (AFP) — The United Nations has declared support for the new multi-party government in Afghanistan, devastated by factional fighting since the fall of the communist regime, the official Bakhtar news agency said Sunday.

Bakhtar said the U.N. special representative on Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris, had sent a letter to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, stating his support for the broad-based government.

Mr. Mousouris also said he hoped to visit Kabul in the coming weeks to discuss ways in which the U.N. could assist Afghanistan.

Expatriate United Nations staff pulled out of Afghanistan last year when the intensity of the factional fighting drove most foreign diplomats from the war-torn city.

Radical factional leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was sworn in as prime minister Thursday at a ceremony west of Kabul in the presence of Mr. Rabbani, a political opponent, under a plan announced by nine warring faction leaders a month ago.

However, Mr. Hekmatyar was yet to enter Kabul, citing fears for his own security, and witnesses said several rockets fell in Kabul's northern Khair Khanna area Sunday, but were unable to say who fired them.

The witnesses said political tension was still high in the capital, and one of Mr. Hekmatyar's political officers said Sunday ways of trying to disarm the warring factions were still at the discussion stage.

The officer, Kathalben Hilal, also told AFP that eight out of 18 ministers in the new government had started working, and added that the new unified Islamic army in Kabul would admit former soldiers of the old communist government if they were not "purely political communist officers."

Mr. Mousouris' letter followed a similar expression of support for the new multi-party government by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeeddin Borujerdi Saturday.

City hospitals said they had received no immediate reports of casualties from the Khair Khanna rocketing.

Young Egyptian victim symbolises frustration at bombing campaign

By Eileen Al Powell
The Associated Press

CAIRO — A three-year-old girl, near death with a nail driven into her brain by a makeshift bomb, has become a symbol of Egyptians' fear and frustration over Muslim extremist attacks that increasingly target ordinary people.

Meri Mahrous has been in an intensive care unit at Cairo's Al Salama hospital since June 8, when a bomb detonated on the traffic-clogged road to the Giza Pyramids sprayed nails and metal scraps into her father's car and other vehicles.

She is one of 68 Egyptians killed or wounded in the past month by three nail-packed bombs in Cairo. On Saturday, the death toll in the latest bombing rose to seven as four victims died of wounds from a Friday night blast near a mosque in the working-class suburb of Shubra.

In an atmosphere of confusion about why the ordinary Egyptian is suddenly at risk, magazines have written about Meri's plight and newspapers cover her progress. Strangers have sent flowers, called to offer condolences and even money.

Police blame the bombing campaign on Muslim radicals trying to topple Egypt's secular government and create an Islamic state. But the blasts have gone beyond the extremists' earlier targets of Coptic Christians, police and foreign tourists.

Islamic scholars have written articles claiming the attacks could not be carried out by devout Muslims, and officials say the extremists are backed by Iran, Sudan and Afghanistan.

Rifat Al Said, a left-wing politician, told the Egyptian Al-Ahram newspaper that the latest bombings — after attacks on Copts and police — were the logical steps in a campaign to bring down the government.

"The third stage was to undermine tourism, aiming at economic and social instability. The last step was to sabotage the whole society and make citizens feel insecure under the present regime," he said.

Egyptians who live near Friday's bombing in Shubra suggested that the militants were succeeding in spreading fright — and arousing anger.

"Of course there is fear," said Mustafa Al Arabi, 22, an air-conditioning repairman who helped carry the wounded to hospital after the bombing. "We are becoming afraid to ride buses. Some people won't go out of their houses."

His friend, Albert Yusef, 35, paused in the midst of repairing a car and called for summary justice: "Bring those people (the bombers) back here and let the people take care of them."

At nearby Khazendard Hospital, Mustafa Diah sat with his 14-year-old son Hani, who was awaiting surgery for the removal of shrapnel from his back from the Friday blast.

"He was on his way to pray at the mosque," Mr. Diah said. "Crowded places must have more police presence."

Across town in the suburbs of Mohandessin, Dr. Nicola Mahrous, a dentist, and his wife, Mary George, a pharmacist, are surrounded by relatives as they keep their vigil at Meri's bedside.

A stuffed doll with bright pink hair beside her, Meri recognises her parents' voices but responds only by wagging her finger.

Dr. Mahrous fights to hold back tears as he tells of his daughter's plight: "It's a nail, 1.2 centimetres long that entered her left ear and lodged in the right side of the brain. The doctor says extraction would cause more destruction than leaving it there."

His wife worries about Meri's future.

"I want my child to return to normal, to walk and play with the other children, to go back to school," she said.

Dr. Mahrous seems as confused as many other Egyptians about the latest bombings.

"We don't know who the attackers are or why they did this," he said. "I can't believe they are Egyptians. Egyptians don't do this to each other."

Asked what he would say to the bombers, he replied: "I would tell them that no one can help Egypt except God. We will pray to God to prevent more incidents."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Monkey bites Israeli policeman

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A monkey played all sorts of tricks on a panic-stricken family in a Tel Aviv suburb before biting a policeman who tried to catch the macaque. Shoshana Hassid said the surprise of her life when she went to answer a knock at the door of her house on Saturday. The grey and white beast bounded of her sofa and started to make a terrible din. The Hassid parents and children fled to neighbours. "I called the police who took a long time to come," neighbour Shimon Giovanni told AFP. When they did turn up the monkey ran around wildly before a setting about one of the officers, biting his arm. Police called in a team of vets from a nearby zoo who shot a tranquilliser into the primate. The owner of the monkey, which is cooling its heels in the Ramat Gan Safari zoo, has failed to come forward.

U.S. carrier Nimitz leaves Gulf

MANAMA (R) — The U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz has left the Gulf on a routine rotation but the U.S. maintains adequate force in the region, a navy spokesman said Sunday. Lieutenant Commander Bruce Cole, said the Nimitz carrier group passed through the Strait of Hormuz and was in the Arabian Sea after spending three months, a normal tour, in the Gulf. "There are still United States air force aircraft in the region, and we still have Tomahawk (cruise missile) capabilities in the region," Lt. Comm. Cole said. "We still have a very potent force if called upon." The navy has about 10 ships left in the Gulf and Lt. Comm. Cole said another aircraft carrier battle group would be arriving. He declined to name it, but noted that the last carrier to leave the U.S. west coast, headed for the west Pacific and Indian Ocean, was the USS Abraham Lincoln.

More than 300 Indonesians die on Haj

JAKARTA (AFP) — More than 300 Indonesian Muslims died while on the Haj pilgrimage to Mecca this year, mostly of old age, heart disease and heat stroke, an official said over the week end. "As of Saturday, at least 324 Indonesian pilgrims had died while performing the rituals," said Nurma Murdin of the Haj division of the Religious Affairs Ministry. A total of 122,882 Indonesians made the pilgrimage this year. Mr. Nurdin said, with the last due home in July. Last year 104,861 went, out of which 366 died.

South Korean delegation visits Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A science and technology delegation from Seoul is paying the first official South Korean visit to Israel in a bid to boost cooperation, officials said Sunday. The five-member delegation led by Yu Hee Yoi, director-general of the Science and Technology Ministry, is also preparing a visit expected later this year by the South Korean minister for science and technology. The Koreans, who were to leave Wednesday after a week-long stay, are visiting Israeli scientific establishments. The two countries opened ties in 1962 and Israel has an embassy in Seoul but the Korean ambassador in Rome is accredited to Israel.

Briton, German appeal to Iraq high court

BAGHDAD (R) — A Briton and a German serving eight years in prison for illegal entry have appealed against the sentence to Iraq's high court, a Russian diplomat said on Sunday. "The standard procedure is to appeal to the high court, every foreigner in prison in Iraq has done that," Oleg Dessiantnikov, secretary of the consular section looking after British interests in Baghdad, told Reuters. Mr. Dessiantnikov said he had little hope the Iraqi court would review the jail sentence. Similar appeals by other foreigners jailed in Iraq were all rejected. Under Iraqi law, people entering without visas can be jailed between one and 20 years. But there have been cases in which offenders were expelled or given suspended sentences. Briton Simon Dunn, 23, and German Kai Sondermann, are in Abu Ghraib prison on the western outskirts of Baghdad where other foreigners jailed for similar offences are held.

Campaign to keep S. African Jews in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A campaign has been launched to raise \$500,000 to help Jewish immigrants from South Africa overcome financial troubles and stay in Israel. Fund director Herzl Katz said the South African Zionist Federation launched the drive last week because many among the 17,000 Jews in Israel from South Africa are considering leaving. "The falling rand has put people who are dependent on incomes from South Africa in a very precarious position," Mr. Katz told the Jerusalem Post newspaper. The fund, whose resources are near depletion, already hands out monthly grants to about 100 families, Mr. Katz said.

Syria ends ban on cigarette imports

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Smokers formed huge lines outside supermarkets across Syria Saturday to stock up on foreign cigarettes following a government decision to end a 30-year ban on imports. The government recently authorised the import of 42 foreign brands from the United States, Europe and Lebanon as part of efforts to liberalise the economy. The initiative also coincided with a campaign launched last month to clamp down on smuggling operations which had flourished at Syria's borders with Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Syria banned the import of all goods which could be produced locally when the ruling Baath Party reached in 1963. But the restrictions have been eased over the past two years amid a policy of economic reform.

'Illegal' transplant reported in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli hospital's decision Saturday to transplant six organs from a dead man without notifying his family is under investigation, police said. Soroka hospital in Beersheba transplanted the heart, liver, both kidneys and both lungs of an unidentified victim of a traffic accident that occurred Thursday, man, about 50, died Saturday, he said. Soroka did initiate a search for him, Israeli Radio said. But if his family was religious, they may have been unreachable as observant Jews are forbidden to use the phone on the Jewish Sabbath. Many Israelis object to transplants because most orthodox religious authorities forbid them.

Jordan Times
Tel. 687171

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 7711119	
PROGRAMME TWO	
19:00	Oscania Durward
19:05	News in French
19:15	Magazine Sportif
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:35	News in Arabic
19:40	And Baby Makes Five
20:10	The story of Hollywood
20:20	News in English
20:30	Jordan Weekly
20:40	Street Justice
PRAYER TIMES	
05:50	Fajr
06:25	(Sunrise) Duha
12:25	Dhuhr
16:17	'Asr
19:45	Maghrib
21:25	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625411	
Anglican Church Tel. 625226, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 625411	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Gradual rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	Min./Max. temp. 17 / 30
Amman	23 / 38
Deserts	15 / 23

Jordan Valley 21 / 37	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Nasser Mohammad	904660
Dr. Mohammad Al Nahawi	639125
Dr. Mohammad Labeda	635385
Dr. Mohamud Imran	612232
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Naima pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairouhi pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IBBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Zu'bi	(-)
Alquds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rafeh Atallah	(-)
Khalid pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	620341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	845402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	778336
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	777111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813812/322
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642411/2
Jahd Amman Maternity	642362
Mallat, J. Amman	636140
Palatine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845363
Queen Alia Hospital	667227/9
Al-Hilal, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajireen	775101/2
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/2
Arm, Marika	891611/5
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital	622240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)903560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)985732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)987990
BURDI	
Prince Banna Hospital	02725555
Greek Catholic Hospital	02727273
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital	02747100
AQABA:	
Process Haya Hospital	(03)34111
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:45	Sanaa (RJ)
06:45	New Delhi (RJ)
09:30	Damascus (RJ)
10:00	Jeddah (RJ)
10:15	Riyadh (RJ)
10:30	Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30	Damascus (RJ)
10:55	Beirut (RJ)
17:45	Cairo (RJ)
18:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:00	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Beirut (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15	London (RJ)
13:25	Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)
14:20	Moscow (RJ)
21:00	Dhahran (RJ)
21:30	Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45	Damascus (RJ)
00:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
02:00	Muscat (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:15	Beirut (ME)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in lbs per kg.	
Apple	700 / 700
Banana	680 / 680
Banana (Mukammal)	620 / 620
Beans	100 / 100
Cabbage	100 / 50
Carrot	300 / 200
Cauliflower	180 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	70 / 30
Cucumbers (small)	150 / 100
Eggplant	120 / 60
Garlic	600 / 300
Lemon	600 / 300
Marrow (large)	140 / 90
Marrow (small)	250 / 200
Mint	150 / 80
Onion (dry)	150 / 100
Orange	340 / 260
Pepper (hot)	180 / 120
Pepper (sweet)	240 / 180
Potato	180 / 120
Tomato	80 / 40

NHF, WHO review cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Cooperation between the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) Sunday was discussed in a meeting at NHF headquarters between WHO Representative in Jordan Abdel Majid Abdel Hadi, and NHF President In'am Mufti.

During the meeting, Dr. Abdul Hadi reconfirmed the status of the NHF Quality of Life Projects as regional model of development. He also expressed WHO's appreciation for existing cooperation with NHF.

Both sides also discussed pre-

parations for the forthcoming intercountry consultation meeting to be held in Jordan towards the end of 1993.

The meeting will centre on how best to promote the Basic Minimum Needs (BMN) approach to development, prepare regional guidelines on how to implement that approach in support of the health-for-all goal, and discuss ways of replicating the already implemented pilot projects on a wider scale within participating countries as well as regionally.

The Quality of Life Project was first initiated in Jordan by NHF in

1989 in cooperation with WHO and the Ministry of Health, with the goal of introducing a dynamic, innovative development programme that would improve the total quality of life of underprivileged individuals and communities in rural, urban and densely-populated parts of Jordan.

To date, the project has been implemented in twelve Jordanian communities. About 15,000 people directly and indirectly benefit from the project, which is expected to cover seven more communities by the end of 1993.

1,463 Palestinians killed since start of intifada — report

AMMAN (Petra) — Israeli authorities last month killed 35 Palestinians, bringing the number of Palestinians killed since the start of the 1987 intifada to 1,463, according to the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs monthly report.

Among those killed were children aged 18 to 16 years, said the report issued Sunday.

The siege imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip by Israel since late March and the curfew periodically clamped on Palestinian villages and refugee camps, was causing untold suffering to the local population, by depriving the Arab citizens of their basic right to earn a living.

The Israeli forces continue to use anti-tank rockets to demolish Palestinian homes suspected of being involved in the resistance, said the report.

Since the start of the intifada, the Israeli army has demolished 169 Palestinian homes in this manner in the Gaza Strip alone, the report added.

Referring to Arab-owned lands, the report said that 3,079,685 dunums in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have been expropriated by the Israeli authorities to settle Jewish immigrants.

It noted that 186 settlements have so far been established in the West Bank and 20 others in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians are either individually or collectively, being accorded inhuman treatment, with the Israeli courts passing sentences on Palestinian youth, ranging from several months to several years, said the report.

Torture is commonplace in Israeli detention camps and prisons, added the report.

In one instance, the Israeli authorities detained a 10-year-old boy and placed him in solitary confinement for three days without food or water. The boy's condition was critical by the time he was released, charged the report.

The Israeli authorities continue to place obstacles in the way of worshippers trying to get to Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque for Friday prayers, and troops continue to enter and desecrate mosques, the report continued.

Arab-American doctors' convention opens on sharing, emotional note

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A convention of Arab-American doctors started Sunday, June 20, with the expressed desire to share knowledge with fellow physicians, believing in its educational value.

The conference, the 11th International Medical Convention of the Arab American Medical Association (AAMA), opened at the Royal Cultural Centre under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

The key theme of the opening speeches was the desire to benefit from the presentations and the importance of the humanitarian mission of the profession.

This was even more poignantly underlined by Crown Prince Hassan who had just returned from the airport after receiving the second group of Bosnian refugees in Jordan in two days and said care for these people would be welcome from any corner.

Seeing the refugees, be they Bosnian or Palestinian, leaves the most indelible mark, the Crown Prince said, adding that Jordan has decided to host them in order to help them restore their dignity and humanity.

The opening speeches of the conference, a mixture of professional pledges and emotional addresses to the motherland, some had left, began with that of Youssef Hamadi, president of the AAMA and general chairman of the 11th convention.

While expressing hope that the medical presentation will be mutually beneficial and will help Jordanian doctors enrich their knowledge, he also paid tribute to the democratic path the Kingdom is following and the pride felt at being a Jordanian abroad.

Fertility specialist Suheil Muasher stressed the educational advantages that can be obtained from the convention when 150 abstracts were given and 130 scientific presentations are to be



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday with Arab-American and Jordanian doctors at the opening session of the 11th

International Medical Convention of the Arab-American Medical Association held in Amman (Petra photo)



Participants and attendees to the Arab-American doctors' convention (Petra photo)

made in 14 medical domains ranging from cardiovascular diseases to pathology.

"The most recent diagnostic and therapeutic modalities" will be presented at the various sessions spread over the next four days, said Dr. Muasher, adding that the aim was to enrich the scientific programme of all medical branches.

Jordan Medical Association President Ismael Maraqa, in welcoming the visitors, made an impassioned speech reminding the participants of the daily sufferings in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands and expressing hope that the convention will be held next year in

Jerusalem.

Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas struck the sensitive chord of emigration and urged the expatriate doctors to keep the link with their countrymen.

Acknowledging the importance of such conferences, Prince Hassan said action was more important in the spread of knowledge and building bridges among each other.

"I hope a medical journal will be forthcoming," said the Crown Prince, suggesting a computerised medical data bank and easy access to it to the benefit of all.

He also pointed to the need for

interdisciplinarity in the interest of health, and raising public awareness to the real challenges men, women and children face in the region and the indivisibility of human rights, something, the Crown Prince stressed, that not many countries in the region can boast.

Ending the speeches, Dr. Hamadi said that while not forgetting the country that has adopted them and provided them with knowledge, the Arab-American doctors should not forget either the countries of their origin, which they should strive to help keep abreast of the latest medical discoveries.

Jordan seeks to open new chapter in educational ties with Arab states

AMMAN (Petra) — Education Minister Khaled Al Omari Sunday voiced Jordan's genuine desire to open a new chapter of close cooperation with the Arab countries based on bilateral agreements in education.

Acting upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, the Jordanian government plans to encourage close cooperation based on mutual trust and amity with all Arab states, said the minister at a meeting Sunday with the cultural attaches of Arab embassies in Amman.

"We plan to launch strong ties of cooperation in all educational fields, at different levels, to benefit the whole Arab Nation," added the minister.

In outlining Jordan's educational programmes, the minister referred to the ongoing educational development plan launched in the mid-1980s.

Dr. Omari said one of the objectives of the plan is to raise the standard and efficiency of the teachers.

The plan also entails promoting the work of community colleges to cater to the need of the local community, noted the minister.

Special stress is being placed on improving the status of teachers, according to Dr. Omari.

The minister listened to proposals from the cultural attaches who echoed Jordan's call for closer educational links among Arab states and the exchange of exper-



Khaled Al Omari, Minister of Education, as well as promoting scientific research related to education.

Swedish school donates \$4,000 to Joffeh school

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Swedish school in the town of Bergskolan has donated \$4,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) school in Jabal Joffeh in Amman.

The Swedish school transferred the amount to Sweden's Ambassador to Jordan Christian Baasch, who handed over the contribution to Paul David, officer-in-charge of UNRWA affairs, Jordan in a small ceremony held at the Swedish embassy Sunday.

The school was twinned with the Jabal Joffeh school last year.

Thereafter, the Swedish pupils collected local contributions to assist the Joffeh school.

The contribution will be used to purchase educational aids, a public address system and other school necessities which will benefit 4,050 students.

UNRWA runs 200 schools in Jordan providing 10 years of schooling for some 152,000 boys and girls.

Sweden, which is the third largest contributor to UNRWA, contributed \$26.3 million to the agency's 1992 regular budget.

School bus drivers must pass course — PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday advised on school buses drivers to join driver training courses which will be held at the Hashemite Vocational Training Centre or at the Royal Automobile Club's Driver Training Centre, or else they would not be permitted to continue to work as drivers for these schools.

The PSD measures are in implementation of the regulations issued by the Interior Ministry to ensure safety for school students and teachers accompanying them.

Drivers will receive training in protective driving, traffic rules and priorities, picking up school students and dropping them off, and helping them cross the streets.

Largest Arab soap maker to expand markets

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab World's largest detergent producer is eyeing new markets for its products, which are expected to increase this year because of the substantial investment that the company has made in its production facilities.

Jordan's Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Company (ICA) is trying to add Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union to the list of its markets which include eastern

European countries and neighbouring Arab states, ICA Managing Director Yehya Al Alami said Sunday.

The ICA, a public shareholding company, which produces detergents, soaps and cosmetics among other things, is also expecting a 10 per cent growth in its revenue, which amounted to JD 27 million in 1992, Mr. Alami told the Jordan Times three days after the ICA hosted an international conference for soap producers.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of watercolours, entitled "Landscapes of Jordan," by Prof. Elmar Dittmann at the Phoenix Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Abdullah Katana and Dodi Tabbaa at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of Japanese paintings and photos at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Hani Ali and Karim Ramana at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshebeila Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.

LECTURE

- Lecture entitled "The Change of the Rural Landscape in Jordan" by Dr. Gaetano Palumbo at the Friends of Archaeology at 7 p.m.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation, a. Established 1975

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Lines in history

THE U.N. Security Council declaration recently that the decisions of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti boundary demarcation commission were "final" is perplexing. Had the commission members or the respected Security Council representatives read their history books right, something that is essential for responsible people, they would have discovered that they were repeating what the British commissioner general in the Gulf did in 1922.

Lt. Harold Dickson, the British military attaché to the Gulf region at the time, writing his memoirs, described how the commissioner, Sir Percy Cox, summoned the rulers of the Arabian peninsula and told them — "like naughty school children" — that "he himself would decide on the type of line of the frontier."

We would have expected the Security Council to consider that such arbitrary decisions taken by the powers of the day — whether British, American or collective — would not hold unless agreed upon by the concerned nations. Iraq, in this case, is on the record as totally opposed to the work of the commission.

Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990 and the ensuing crisis and war were the results of, among other things, Iraq's claim that Kuwait was part of its historical territory. Not that states are created, annexed or dissolved on historical basis. Repeating the mistakes of the past is only a prescription for continued and prolonged conflict. What Sir Percy Cox was doing in the Gulf in the 1920s, mandated by one world body at the time, the League of Nations, is being repeated by the Western powers under the banner of the U.N. and the Security Council. The people of this region, be they Iraqis, Kuwaitis or whoever, yearn for secure and peaceful agreements whether on borders or on other conflicts. More than anybody else, Kuwaitis themselves will never feel safe unless Iraq and Iraqis accept the final line of border drawn between the two countries. The Security Council, by virtue of its name, is responsible for ensuring a "secure" border for Kuwait. That can only be achieved through the recognition of Iraq and the Iraqi people.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily Sunday struck a pessimistic note over the proceeding of the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, noting that Israel's obstacles are making it impossible for the peace process to achieve any tangible results. However, President Clinton's latest appointments and reshufflings of senior officers and his appointment of able personnel to deal with the negotiations process in light of his meetings with King Hussein could ease the situation a bit and might give some momentum to the peace talks, predicted the daily. The paper said that the appointments reflect Mr. Clinton's increased interest in the negotiations and his determination to involve the United States as a full partner in the process which is now almost deadlocked due to the Israeli obstacles on all four tracks. The main stumbling block, the paper stressed, remains Israel's decline to recognise the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to set up an independent state. At this moment, Israel is still dragging its feet over the question of implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 on which the whole negotiation process hinges, added the daily. King Hussein, who has warned of the consequences of missing the present opportunity for ending the conflict, is still pursuing all his efforts to give momentum to the process which the paper said, aims at attaining a final settlement and bringing peace to the region.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Sunday warmly welcomed a decision by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries which stressed in a recent statement that they would by no means give in to pressures for lifting the embargo on dealings with firms that maintain close interests with the Jewish state. Mahmoud Al Rimawi said that Kuwait's decision to lift the embargo unilaterally can only mean that the decision was an isolated move which would repeat itself among the emirate's closest partners. The writer said that the unanimous decision taken by the council can only be described as responsible and reflecting total commitment to the pan-Arab stand. The question is not connected with the issue of whether to lift or maintain the embargo, but rather is linked to whether Israel is willing to implement U.N. resolutions and end its occupation of Arab land, continued the writer. It is regrettable to see the United States pursuing all efforts and exercising all kinds of pressures on the Arab countries to lift the embargo without pressuring the Jewish state to end its repression and occupation of Arab land, said the writer. He said that once the occupation ends and once Israel is committed to respecting the international legitimacy, the way to peace will be wide open and there can be no need for maintaining any embargo.

In an article I had written for the Jordan Times on May 29 under the headline "Resolution 181 — binding decision, mutually inclusive rights," I stated the following, among other matters: "The Palestinians on the other hand, did not accept the partition resolution because they considered that the United Nations had neither the right nor the jurisdiction to partition their ancestral homeland and inasmuch as they formed the great majority of the indigenous inhabitants of Palestine."

There is no doubt at all that on the legal and demographic plane the Palestinian Arabs were absolutely right to reject the partition of their homeland, but from the practical and political view this rejection was? In retrospect, it was not. Since the partition resolution the Palestinians have undergone tragic vicissitudes, were subjected to untold misery and were scattered in the four corners of the earth. They should have by now learnt the lessons of history. Not only had the Palestinian leadership missed the opportunity of accepting the partition resolution; it had missed other previous opportunities which were offered. Had the leadership seized these opportunities, Palestinians would have now been in a much better lot and position, although admittedly those opportunities would not have fulfilled their full national aspirations.

In 1929 the British authorities in Palestine proposed to establish a legislative council composed of twenty-two members as follows: ten British to be appointed by the British high commissioner, two Jews, two Christians and eight Muslims, all to be elected in a general election. But the council had no authority to discuss the Balfour Declaration and the mandate. The grand mufti of Palestine, the late Haj Amin al-Husseini, and other Palestinian leaders rejected the proposal and advised the Palestinians to boycott the election. The propos-

al was consequently dropped and Palestine continued to be ruled by the high commissioner and the executive council whose members were all British. The British also proposed to the Arabs of Palestine to form an Arab Agency, similar to the Jewish Agency, to deal with Arab affairs, but this proposal was also rejected.

The rationale of the Arab rejection in the above-mentioned instances is that the Palestinian Arabs formed the majority of the country and could not be deprived of real democratic representation. Some Arab writers and thinkers were of the opinion that although the proposals were not satisfactory and a far cry from fulfilling Palestinian Arab national aspirations, they could never-

theless have been developed and improved by negotiations in the long term.

On May 17, 1939, the British government issued a White Paper whereby it announced its intention to limit Jewish immigration to 75,000 immigrants for the following five years (i.e. 15,000 immigrants per year), to limit the sale of land to the Jews in certain areas of Palestine and to grant independence to Palestine within ten years. The Jews rejected the White Paper but continued to cooperate with the British during World War II and they even formed a Jewish Battalion which was integrated in the British army. But after the war the Jews started a campaign of violence

and terror, directed at the British and the Arabs alike, to force the British to withdraw the White Paper. The Palestinians, represented by the Arab Higher Committee, criticised the British policy in Palestine and the grounds upon which the White Paper was based and thus did not wholly accept or reject the White Paper. Eventually, the British government withdrew the White Paper at the end of the war.

As the British government was harassed by the Jewish campaign of violence and terrorism, while President Truman was pressuring it to open the gates of Palestine for Jewish immigration, although the U.S. government had closed its doors to the Jews, the British

government decided in April 1947 to refer "the question of the future government of Palestine" to the United Nations.

As is well known, the United Nations General Assembly decided on November 29, 1947, to partition Palestine into two states: one Arab and one Jewish. The partition resolution was passed notwithstanding the Arab opposition and the revolt of the Palestinian Arabs against its implementation. The Palestinian leadership failed at the time to realise the strength and influence of the Jews who were supported by the U.S. as well as by the Europeans and the Communist bloc of Eastern Europe, including the former Soviet Union.

Had the Palestinian leadership been endowed with realism and vision, it would have reached the conclusion that partition was inevitable and should have accepted it. Palestinians would then have had a state comprising the West Bank and Gaza Strip and which would have been recognised by the United Nations and the international community. Now the Palestinians are being offered by Israel a mutilated, truncated, West Bank and an impoverished Gaza Strip. Can a historian say that the Palestinians had lost another opportunity by rejecting the partition resolution or concur with Aha Eban's cynical remark that the history of the Palestinians is a "history of lost opportunities?"

The Palestinians should therefore learn from the bitter lessons of their past and seize the opportunity to gain independence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and not as some factions of Palestinian extremists would wish, claim all Palestine or nothing. May I remind those extremists of an example in Arab-Muslim history? After liberating the interior part of Palestine and Jerusalem in 1187 A.D., Salah Eddin Al Ayyubi concluded a peace treaty in 1192 A.D. with King Richard the Lion Heart of England during the Third Crusade, although the west coast of Palestine, including Akko (Acre) and Safad remained under the rule of the crusaders. It was later on, in the 13th century A.D., that the Mamluks dealt a final blow to the crusaders. And it was after the battle of Ayn Jalut, in 1260 A.D., that the Mamluks were able to wrest all Palestine from the Tartars who had penetrated Palestine down to Gaza.

Those who oppose the peace negotiations with Israel to wrest the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel's cruel occupation should take stock of the above-mentioned history lessons so as not to lose another opportunity which may not come in hundreds of years.

M. KAHIL



God's laws second to gun in Afghanistan

By Vijay Joshi
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — When the Mujahedeen guerrillas seized Kabul from communist President Najibullah's regime in April 1992, many people feared Afghanistan would turn into a theocratic state like neighbouring Iran. The government did make a beginning: seven men were publicly hanged in a central park in Kabul for murder and robbery; women announcers were banned on television; love songs went off the air on Kabul Radio and male gynecologists became jobless because Islam forbids men from touching women who are not their wives, mothers and sisters. But rivalries within Mujahedeen factions exploded into a civil war for the control of the government and much else was forgotten.

"Islam's biggest victory in Afghanistan was bringing down the communists... now the (civil) war has become the main headache in implementing Sharia," said Abdul Qadir Imami, the deputy minister of Islamic affairs. The Sharia Islamic laws were the centrepiece of a 13-year guerrilla campaign against atheist communist regimes. But so far, strict penalties like flogging, stoning and chopping off hands and feet for theft and adultery have not been imposed.

"We cannot have such punishments until the government is able to provide for every citizen's security and prosperity," Mr. Imami said.

The government's plan to segregate educational institutions according to sexes cannot be implemented because schools and colleges have been shut for the last 13 months due to the fighting. The schools are instead being used by guerrillas as barracks.

While alcohol is banned by the Islamic religion, sales flourish in the chicken street market, a few hundred metres from secret police headquarters.

For 40,000 afghanis (\$40), an average one month's salary of a government official, Kabulis can buy premium Scotch whiskey. Or, one can indulge in German beer, vodka, or Russian wine. Most customers, however, are the handful of foreigners still remaining in Afghanistan.

Cinemas were closed last year because movies would show uncovered women. Last month, two film theatres were allowed to reopen. They screened a martial arts movie featuring Bruce Lee and a Rambo movie starring

Sylvester Stallone. Several guerrilla fighters who man sand-bagged bunkers at street intersections showed up for the shows carrying their Kalashnikov assault rifles.

This week, a Hindi-language movie from India — great favorites in Afghanistan — entertained war-weary Kabulis who sat through the two-hour melodrama, shortened by censors who removed one hour of love scenes, songs and glimpses of actresses deemed inadequately clothed.

Much fighting since the Islamic revolution has been in and around Kabul. At least 1,300 people were killed in May alone. Tens of thousands of people died in the country in previous months.

As the city slowly returned to normal, the streets began to bustle with men in western and Afghan dresses and women in their pre-war smart modern clothes and lots of make-up.

Kabuli women put away their traditional loose fitting dresses for western ones, make-up and high heeled shoes decades ago.

Now, with fears of a strict theocratic state diminishing, women wearing eye shadow, lipstick, rouge and silk stockings. Fashionably cut skirts and trousers are a common sight in Kabul. But some fear of mullahs — Islamic clerics or teachers — is still evident; no skin except the hands and face is visible and scarves cover heads in keeping with the Islamic tradition of hijab.

Still, a few women can be seen wearing burqas, a shroud-like shapeless dress that falls from head to ankles.

"We don't want women to be well covered. If someone wants to look like a hen trapped in a sack wearing a burqa, that is her personal taste," Mr. Imami, the minister, said.

Last month, the government brought back women announcers on television. And male gynecologists were called back.

The government is controlled by the moderate Jamiat-Islami Party, which maintains it is committed to setting up a progressive Islamic state with equal rights for women and no place for cruel punishments.

But not all Mujahedeen may agree with this. Last month, a guerrilla from the hardline Hezb-e-Islami faction threatened to kill a western woman reporter for appearing in public wearing a T-shirt and slacks, considered immodest by fundamentalists.

Germany and the new world order

The armed forces in a changed security environment

By Wolf J. Bell

BONN — The security situation in Europe has changed radically since the unification of Germany. The East-West confrontation is now over and the former antagonists are together turning their attention to disarmament, arms control and new forms of cooperative security. At the same time, dangerous ethno-nationalistic conflicts have flared up in the south, the true causes of which are rooted in European Balkan policies of a bygone era.

In other parts of the world, too, tensions have increased since the ending of the East-West polarisation, though the reasons there are spreading overpopulation, poverty and famine. Regional wars and stronger flows of refugees which create security problems of a new kind are the result. The Federal Republic of Germany must define its future role in the international security system against the background of this changed environment.

Bonn's defence policy prior to unification was for decades determined by the East-West conflict. As part of NATO's deterrence strategy it was geared exclusively to protecting West Germany and securing the line running through the centre of Europe which divided the two military blocs. The Federal Government's foremost aim was to consolidate peace and at the same time help overcome the division of Europe. German forces could not be deployed outside the NATO area — a restriction inherent in the Basic Law (constitution) and the country's division.

United Germany, still closely allied to the United States, can no longer, in the opinion of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, invoke special rules when the country is called upon to play an active part within the framework of the United Nations in warding off acute danger and building a new, global security order. Basically, it is a question of Germany's involvement in establishing the regulatory framework for a new world domestic policy which, for the first time, has a real chance of materialising.

Nor can Germany deny her key role in forging a pan-European peace system. She is obliged by the constitution to serve world peace as part of a united Europe. Since, in an era of growing interdependence, every threat to peace affects more or less all nations, this constitution requirement can today, according to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on his visit to Bonn in January, only be fulfilled within the framework of the international community. Furthermore, joint efforts to maintain peace

have always been the focal point of all multilateral security agreements to which Germany is a party.

Under the peacekeeping mandate of the United Nations the Federal Republic of Germany has, within the limits imposed by her constitution, participated in various U.N. peacekeeping missions by providing civilian personnel and police, technical and logistical support as well as considerable financial assistance, and more recently by assigning unarmed military experts.

In the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Bonn itself has urged that this community of now 54 member states declare itself a "regional arrangement" with the meaning of the United Nations Charter and assume a peacekeeping role of its own.

Germany feels that the institutional framework of NATO and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council as the forum for increasing cooperation with the nations of the former Warsaw Pact should be used to develop the CSCE's security policy.

Within the European Community, which is also aiming to form a security union and to make Western European Union its defence instrument, Germany advocates a common military policy of conflict prevention.

New mission

In this newly developing international framework the political mission of the German Bundeswehr (armed forces) must be redefined in the light of existing disarmament commitments and with a view to its specific role in the alliance. It must be a role acceptable to the German public. The classical mission of defending the country now applies to the whole of Germany since national security can be threatened on all of its borders and that is where the danger has to be met. In addition, the German armed forces are to be made available to the U.N. Security Council and the CSCE as partners of NATO and the West European Union (WEU) in safeguarding international peace and order.

It is argued that German troops should be involved in U.N. peacekeeping missions as well as in military operations to restore peace on the basis of a Security Council mandate, and that they should be available for verification duties under arms control agreements and for humanitarian and disaster relief operations.

A change in the constitution? Such assignments would re-

quire changes in the constitution which can only be carried by a two-thirds majority in parliament. This is still a controversial political issue in Germany. The urgent need for a decision is obvious, one reason being that the members of the Bundeswehr will have to be motivated for their new role.

The armed forces themselves are already adjusting. Since total manpower will be restricted to 370,000 as from 1995, they have begun the task of restructuring. There will be two very different components: the "main defence forces," who will protect German territory, and the "crisis response forces," who will be ready to perform international missions under the aegis of the U.N. and the CSCE and who will be trained and equipped for the task.

New structural arrangements are also evolving at the multilateral level. NATO is to have a rapid deployment force consisting of 100,000 troops from 12 member states, to which Spain, Belgium and Luxembourg wish to add their contingents, is to form the basis of a European corps under the wing of WEU. Two German-American corps, each consisting of two divisions, are to be operational before the end of 1993. A German-Danish corps was established a number of years ago and a German-Dutch corps is in the pipeline.

All of these formations can be

used in various combinations and also together with other international forces. This is the first security model of its kind. It is rapidly taking shape in response to the conflict in former Yugoslavia, which in strategic terms caught Europe and its allies completely unprepared. Today it is beyond doubt that only resolute international and regional cooperation can safeguard world peace. New forms of deterrence are called for which must also include the international prosecution of those accused of violating human rights.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has submitted his reform plans under the name of a "peace agenda", which also provides for the deployment of U.N. personnel for conflict prevention purposes. The secretary-general proposes that forces be placed under the direct authority of the Security Council for enforcement operations, and that special units be established in order to stabilise peace in troubled areas. Germany supports this plan because it strengthens the world organisation's monopoly on the use of force and makes it less dependent on individual or groups of countries who seek to act on their own authority or even to use the United Nations for their own purposes. Those who wish to share peace, says Germany's Defence Minister Volker Rühe, must also be prepared to make sacrifices for peace — Inter Nations Press



Profile: Carmen Callil

Virago was the only name to pick



HERE is a mystery here. What one to make of someone claimed as a brilliant businesswoman who has, nevertheless, sometimes lost money band over it? Of a woman, said to be a brilliant publisher, whose colleagues complain that her list is empty? Of a woman with a reputation of feminist achievement who has treated women, especially those who work for her in junior positions, with startling and unnecessary cruelty? Carmen Callil, founder of Virago, the publishing house that celebrates its 10th birthday this month, is no ordinary citizen.

Twenty years on, it requires some imaginative effort to remember how marginal the Virago was once considered: a publishing house run by women, to publish women and uncover the buried voices of earlier feminists, at a time when men's tastes and preoccupations were still assumed to be the universal standard.

The project began around Callil's kitchen table in 1973, financed by overdrafts and the profits from her publicity company. It published its first title — *Women*, by Mary Chamberlain — in 1975. Virago was to become a mainstream publishing house, managing director of Chatto and now, at 55, named global publisher at large for the Random House. For admirers, it is the latest in a long line of Ms. Callil triumphs, for critics, she is being kicked upstairs. Is it the girl for Carmen Callil, or another beginning?

Carmen Callil? people say. I want to talk about Carmen Callil. Perhaps not, but once they start you could be there for days, living the drama, passion and fitness. Not all seek revenge: my love her. Yes, they insist, *soberly love her*. Independent-minded women such as Liz Calder, the publisher, or Helena Kennedy, QC (Queen Cross), not tell you strongly enough that a wonderful, courageous, generous, considerate, inspirational, funny and brilliant man she is.

But stop there and you miss the rest — those who can barely ask her name without risking a fess night. It's not fear of the consequences, however. It's the living of it, the stirring up of emotions, that rage at one for allowing her to do that to us and ourselves.

Carmen Callil has got away with the first bit, but has never escaped her demons. These back a long way, to a narrow,

impovertised and pious middle-class upbringing in Melbourne, Australia. Her father was a barrister, of Lebanese descent, not an easy thing to be in Thirties Australia. His passion was books, bought in job lots at auction then sifted for the treasured volumes. The rest were piled in the garden shed. Her mother's family is Irish. There were four children, some affluence, then tragedy: when Carmen was five, her father began the slow, painful process of dying from Hodgkin's disease. When she was eight, he died.

She had been sent to a Catholic boarding school during this agony, to be educated by nuns whom she has described as narrow, joyless and bent on making a lady of her. They failed, but they marked her indelibly with the sense of a vengeful God watching, waiting for her to stumble and, she says, a powerful sense of personal guilt. Escape, in the holidays, was into the garden shed, reading the discarded volumes of her dead father: biographies of obscure 19th-century English characters, forgotten novels by such writers as Henry Handel Richardson.

University offered no escape, except into books. She lived at home, read English at the dogmatic, Leavisite English department of Melbourne University and, she says, never met anybody who wasn't Catholic. The day she graduated, aged 22, she left home and Australia. It was 1960.

If this account — her own — is accurate, there is a further mystery. So far we have a story of repression and escape, not rebellion. But by the time she was noticed in England, there was a very different Carmen Callil. She had tasted adventure in Italy, discovered sex, freedom and parties — an adolescence postponed. On the way, she had reinvented herself. Gone was the Catholic girl from Melbourne, in her place the Australian abroad, crashing through British mores with the energy of a coiled spring. She had adopted an Australian-bully-girl persona, borrowed from the tough guy Australian male — one foot on the bar and lots of swag — for whom good manners were just another kind of Pomme bullshit.

It is a style that has lots of admirers. "She has wonderful qualities," says Helena Kennedy, "that people admire in a man and find terribly frightening in a woman." And the sheer force of her personality, her intelligence, energy and a dazzling charm. It was swinging London and there were plenty of jobs and nightlife. After a brief spell

life. She behaved to her staff like an over-possessive mother, which gave her the absolute right to treat her children abominably, cuffing them round the ear if she felt like it. But if anyone outside the family attacked them, she would defend them like a lioness.

Successive Chatto offices were redecorated in Ms. Callil's taste, filled with the overspill of kitsch from her home. And like a tiny, jealous mother, she was ferociously intolerant of any sign of an independent emotional existence in employees. "Beautiful young men survived better with Carme, but it was particularly hard for women because she could not bear any reference to family or private life. Pregnancy was intolerable," said a former colleague.

Only one emotional entanglement was tolerated: Ms. Callil is mad about cats. One of the men who worked at Chatto recalled a long period of hostility in which Ms. Callil refused to talk to him for weeks. "It was only broken when my cat died. She rang up and said, 'Darling, I've heard about your cat. Are you all right? Would you like to take the afternoon off?' I said, 'No, it's OK, I'm fine.' She said, 'Are you sure? Do take the afternoon off.' The next day she wasn't talking to me again. I'm sure if a child had died, she would never have offered me the afternoon off."

"All the good things about Carmen," said another former colleague, "were inseparable from the reprehensible things: her energy was marvellous and inspiring when well directed, but misdirected it was appallingly destructive." There is little neutral ground in this discussion. "She called secretaries 'thing'," said a former Callil junior. "She was dreadful to people who were weak or subordinate. You dreaded going to the loo because there was always someone in there sobbing."

At the same time, there was inspiration. She is generous with her knowledge and flatteringly indiscreet. If you survived, you could learn a lot from her. And for her favoured authors there was nothing quite like being published by her. Within 48 hours of sending a manuscript, authors could receive pages of comments that demonstrated both her gift for editing and her commitment to the text. Many, such as Angela

Random bombs do not fit Egypt militants' strategy

By Paul Eedle
Reuters

CAIRO — Five nail bombs that have killed and maimed innocent civilians have taken political violence in Egypt into a puzzling and frightening new phase. It is no longer clear who is fighting whom or why.

The bombs do not fit the declared strategy of the main Muslim militant group which has been waging a campaign of violence for more than a year, trying to force the collapse of the government and turn Egypt into a purist Islamic state.

Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group) has targeted police, Christians and tourists since March last year.

It has explained its aims in frequent calls and faxes to reporters: to force police to stop torture and release detainees, and to undermine the government by damaging the vital tourist industry.

The nail bombs belong to a different logic.

They have killed 17 Egyptians and injured 69 — the ordinary people whose support any revolutionary group ought to want to win. They have provoked some frustration with the government, but have stirred an overwhelming wave of popular disgust and anger at the militants.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the bombs and the Gama'a specifically denied it had anything to do with the first of them. Gama'a sympathisers say the group does not target innocent Egyptians.

Police say the bombs were all of the same type. All were packed with nails to cause maximum casualties and all were planted in places where ordinary Egyptians were almost certain to be hurt.

The first ripped through a crowded coffee house on central Cairo's biggest square on February 26, killing three people and injuring 20.

The Wadi Al Nil coffee house was a favourite haunt of young tourists and a Swede and a Turk were among the dead.

But the third person killed and most of the injured were Egyptian. If tourists were the target, the bombers clearly were not worried about killing and injuring local people, even during the holy

South America — a 'lost decade' and the grip of poverty

By Kevin Noble
The Associated Press

RACAS, Venezuela — Exits on South America may feel long, painful economic descent ending, but for truck driver Mora, the run remains uphill and slippery.

"You still can't make it to the end of each month. You have to live miracles," Mr. Mora said, riding in worn sandals outside a tenement in a grim Caracas slum, where he lives with wife and three children.

A monthly wage of about \$140 makes him better off than many. Life is precarious. An illness, a missed week of work, he said, and "I'll wind up in a tiny, or under a bridge."

Poverty, the plague South America once dreamed of eradicating, retains a firm grip on much of the continent, dashing a generation's hopes for a better life, eroding faith in traditional institutions and breeding disease, crime and despair.

The U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America, which fled the 1980s "lost decade" of economic decline, has found hopeful signs in the last 10 years: most economies are growing faster than populations and several countries are defeating inflation.

At least one country, Chile, seems to be making real progress in reducing the swollen ranks of the poor.

But some nations do better in others and the wealthy do so of all, wherever they live.

The expansion has not been distributed, said Victor Zúñiga, a Chilean economist. "The gap between the rich and the poor is widening. For the majority, opportunities are becoming fewer."

Just 20 to 30 years ago, South America appeared ready to move to the front economic ranks. Its economy was booming. Its people were better educated and living longer.

Then, in the 1970s, state-led economies slipped out of gear. Governments ran up

huge deficits and debts. Inflation soared and economic stagnation set in. Austerity measures demanded by international creditors were made even more painful by the global recession of the 1980s.

Working-class families, even the middle class, slid into poverty. Jobs, good health care and education dried up for many of South America's 297 million citizens. Those who specialise in naming categories created a new one: the recent poor.

"It's a phenomenon witnessed across the region, but lately it's been more marked," said Emma Zavallos, a development researcher in Lima, Peru.

subversion and crime.

Peru was among countries that took a big democratic step forward in the 1980s, when elected governments replaced military regimes across South America. But in the 1990s it is among those stepping back, ready to trade some democracy for action on social and economic problems.

President Alberto Fujimori, an outsider elected in 1990, dissolved a congress dominated by opponents in 1992 and established virtual one-man rule with military support. He won a majority in new legislative elections and remains popular with a poor majority cheered by the capture of guerrilla leaders.

Gesturing towards barefoot children playing beside stinking open sewers, he said the poor are fed up with governments that "promise, promise, promise, but never deliver."

Attempts at economic reform were disrupted by the impeachment of President Fernando Collor de Mello, who is being tried on charges of receiving \$6.5 million in graft.

President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela has stepped down after surviving two attempted coups, and faces similar charges. Support for the coups was high among the poor, who speak scornfully of traditional politics.

Surveys indicate the traditional parties, courts and elected officials "are totally discredited" in Venezuela, according to Heinz Sonntag, a sociologist-economist in Caracas. According to the polls, he said, "67 per cent of the people want democracy, but 56 per cent don't want this kind of democracy."

Poverty is less widespread and devastating in Venezuela than in most other South American countries, but has a painful poignancy in an oil-rich nation that once hoped to eliminate it.

Drug use and alcoholism are said to be rampant in the slums that cling to Caracas' hills, where heavily armed gangs fight over turf.

"They kill each other like dogs," said Josefina Gonzalez, a Mexican nun who works in one of the slums. "The situation just gets worse."

Many affluent Venezuelans are getting through the economic crisis quite well and still make shopping trips to Miami. The contrast between their comfortable lives and the suffering of others dramatises what economists call the recovery's weakest aspect: the widening gap between the rich and poor.

"The growth in the last two years has been accompanied by a stunning lack of equality," Mr. Sonntag said.

Brazilian police appear ready to oblige. In Sao Paulo, officers killed 1,359 suspects last year, prompting an outcry by human rights groups but little more than a collective shrug from the public.

Most other South American countries have enjoyed modest growth in the 1990s, but Brazil is still in recession, crippled by triple-digit inflation.

"Everybody just survives," said Luis Muniz do Santos, 39, a janitor who has lived for 17 years in a Sao Paulo shantytown.

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Russia's Ilyushin outsells Airbus at Paris Air Show

LE BOURGNET, France (R) — Perhaps the strangest result of the Paris Air Show which ended Sunday was that the Ilyushin design bureau of Russia sold more planes than Europe's Airbus.

Smaller, quieter and far less lavish than in years past, the 10-day show at Le Bourget Airport north of Paris was marked as much by the recession that has slowed orders to a trickle as by the prominence of Russian firms, out in force to sell aircraft.

And sell they did. Ilyushin Wednesday said it reached an agreement to sell five IL-96 planes fitted with Western engines to Amsterdam-based leasing firm Partnair N.V. in a deal worth about \$700 million.

It was the first time that a Russian aircraft with Western engines had found a Western buyer, industry officials said.

Meanwhile Boeing Co., Airbus and McDonnell Douglas Corp., the industry's main players, came up with only about one fourth of the \$6 billion in orders they unveiled at the last show in 1991.

Boeing, the industry leader with about a 60 per cent market share, announced sales of 16 jets worth \$1.2 billion cobbled together purchases from four airlines and a leasing firm.

Airbus, which has about a third of the Western market, sold only three A340s worth about \$330 million to tiny Air Mauritius.

And McDonnell Douglas, the sick man of the aerospace world, sold just one MD-11 to China Eastern Airlines.

That Ilyushin sold more than Airbus or McDonnell Douglas illustrates two aspects of the aerospace industry — orders of any sort are hard to come by and Russian firms are increasingly going to compete for them.

Western aerospace executives argue the Russians will not be serious rivals for years, saying it will be hard to certify their jets in the West or persuade airlines they are reliable.

Even Partnair plans to take its first Ilyushin in a cargo model, although it says it will ultimately acquire the IL-96's 318-seat passenger version.

And Western executives were not above questioning how solid Ilyushin's deal with Partnair is. "Our understanding is that it is a fairly loose arrangement, presented as a sale," said an official from a competing firm.

But Western engine makers, who are not too bothered whether their products power U.S., European or Russian jets as long as they get paid, are betting former Soviet firms will be players.

Pratt and Whitney has spent \$50-\$60 million fitting its engines on the Ilyushin and said the Partnair deal will bring it about \$280 million in revenues.

George David, president of Pratt and Whitney's parent United Technologies, said it will take more than a decade for his company's investments in the Commonwealth of Independent States to pay off.

"But we don't do these for fun," Mr. David said in an interview last week. "We're in business for the shareholders."

Pratt and Whitney has spent \$50-\$60 million fitting its engines on the Ilyushin and said the Partnair deal will bring it about \$280 million in revenues.

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Abu Dhabi fund boosts loans to Gulf war allies

ABU DHABI (R) — Abu Dhabi has loaned more money to Egypt and Syria in the past two years than it did to the Arab World in the previous decade, an official report says.

An Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (ADFAED) report obtained by Reuters Sunday said it made no loans to other countries in 1992, the year Iraq invaded Kuwait.

But the ADFAED resumed lending in 1991 and 1992 only to Egypt and Syria, the United Arab Emirates state's main Arab allies in the Gulf war.

The figures show in approved loans worth 1.2 billion dirhams (\$328 million) to Egypt and Syria over the two years.

The amount exceeded the 968 million dirhams (\$264 million) loaned to 12 Arab countries in the 1980's.

Egypt, Syria and six Gulf Arab states signed the Damascus declaration after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. It envisaged a Gulf security force, with Syria and Egypt in exchange benefiting from a \$10 billion fund to finance their development plans.

However the security part of alliance has been shelved and no money has yet changed hands. The fund report made no mention of any connection with the Gulf crisis.

It said authorised grants since the ADFAED was set up in 1972 through March 1993 reached 428 million dirhams (\$116 million) but it did not name the recipients.

Total loans to 13 Arab countries since it was set up through February 1993 reached 4.5 billion dirhams (\$1.2 billion).

It authorised loans worth 361 million dirhams (\$98 million) to 19 African countries and 453 million dirhams (\$123 million) to eight Asian countries since 1972.

Salim Ahmad Salim, secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) told a news conference Sunday that he believed OAU leaders would approve a new "mechanism for conflict prevention, management and resolution."

It remained unclear, however, how the cash-strapped organisation of 52 African states would fund such a programme, which could involve negotiators, arbitrators and observers.

Foreign ministers of the OAU are to hold five days of meetings starting Monday in advance of the annual OAU summit, which marks the 30th year of the group's founding.

Mr. Salim said he expected at least 30 African presidents and heads of state to attend the summit next week in Cairo.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was to take over the rotating chairmanship of the group, Mr. Mubarak previously served as chairman in 1989-90.

Mr. Salim said in a report to the leaders that resolving conflicts in Africa was necessary because civil wars and other strife were "engendering so much suffering and destruction and hampering our efforts toward socioeconomic development and recovery."

He added: "I do believe this is one item where decisions will be made by our leaders."

But Mr. Salim admitted that the OAU — as well as its member nations — faced severe financial difficulties.

Member states contributed just \$7 million toward the OAU's \$24 million 1992-93 budget, Mr. Salim said. Arrears from previous years now total \$62 million, he said.

Meanwhile, the economies of African states continue to deteriorate, he said. He estimated Africa's external debt at \$288 billion.

Mr. Salim said the OAU was "trying to sensitise the international community to the magnitude of the (debt) burden facing Africa."

Asked if South Africa would be invited to send an observer to the OAU if it follows through this week in setting an election date for balloting that will include the black majority, Mr. Salim said, "Clearly we will have to review the situation."

They include charges that the central bank printed billions of shillings (millions of dollars) to finance Mr. Moi's reelection campaign last December and plundered the state social security fund to finance the business plans of senior KANU officials.

Mr. Odinga said it was absurd for government officials to go on "begging missions" to donor countries for resumed aid until leaders with large private fortunes repatriated their foreign holdings to show confidence in the economy.

Aid worth some \$40 million a month was suspended in 1991 to force Mr. Moi to liberalise the economy and one-party political system. It is still withheld, despite democratic and trade reforms, because of suspicion of financial irregularity.

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Price of U.S. budget deal is slower growth

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton says his economic programme will usher in a bright new future, strengthening American competitiveness for the long term.

In the short term, though, prospects are less cheery. Analysts estimate that the federal budget now taking shape in Congress will depress U.S. growth by half a percentage point this year and next, dulling an already lacklustre recovery.

Slower growth will rob the economy of about half a million new jobs, said Jeff Faux, analyst at the liberal Washington think tank the Economic Policy Institute.

If health-care reforms costing \$30 billion to \$100 billion are adopted, the economy would be slammed again, robbing it of even more steam.

This might seem risky business for an economy that grew at a meagre 0.8 per cent annual rate in the first quarter.

But most economists estimate that growth now has accelerated to an annual rate of about 3.0 per cent — enough to absorb the blow of higher taxes and lower government spending.

"It will dampen growth but certainly not cause recession," said Michael Levy, economist at CRT Government Securities.

And few dispute that Mr. Clinton's goal of cutting the huge federal budget deficit by \$500 billion over five years is a worthy one and should improve long-term growth prospects.

"A deficit in the long term is akin to eating your seed corn," said Martin Regalia, Chamber of Commerce economist.

It pushes up interest rates, pushes up inflation and eats into capital, which could be more productively invested in businesses rather than government spending, he said.

Private investment generates a return of about 11 per cent — a level the government has to match to make its programmes more productive than private ones, Federal Reserve Governor Lawrence Lindsey told an economists' luncheon last week.

Much of the drag on the economy this year is due to worries over what shape the final budget will take. Businesses are delaying major hiring decisions and capital investments until they know their future costs.

The exact size of these taxes will depend upon how Congress resolves differences between the Senate Finance Committee and the House-passed versions of the budget.

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"The longer it goes on, it acts as a retardant on the economy," said Philadelphia Federal Reserve President Edward Boehne in an interview last Monday.

The real pain will not hit until 1994 when an energy tax of 4.3 to 7.5 cents on a gallon of petrol, corporate tax increases from 34 to around 36 per cent and higher taxes for top earners and on benefits for better-off pensioners come into play.

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Kim warns against spreading labour disputes in S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Kim Young-Sam has said that labour disputes at South Korea's largest automaker and other plants could deal a serious blow to the nation's economy.

Mr. Kim indicated that his four-month-old government may be forced to intervene if the disputes are prolonged. Union leaders warned that government intervention would worsen the situation.

"I am worried that labour disputes are bursting out at a time when the economy is showing signs of recovery from a long recession," Mr. Kim told a group of business and labour leaders.

He promised his government would be impartial in handling

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Rebel Azeri commander rescues army, ready for leadership role

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Rebel leader Surat Huseynov Sunday went to the aid of government troops near Nagorno-Karabakh and held open the possibility of taking power in the embattled nation of Azerbaijan, officials said.

Mr. Huseynov's suggestion and his crucial help in Azerbaijan's battle against Armenian forces testified to his growing strength in the government crisis that has gripped the former Soviet nation of seven million people.

Azerbaijan's power struggle was the latest crisis to rock the Caucasus region, which since 1988 has been torn by warfare between Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, separatist conflicts in Georgia, and ethnic conflicts along Russia's southern border between the Black and Caspian Seas.

Mr. Huseynov was demoted by President Abulfaz Elchibey this year in a dispute over conducting the war over Nagorno-Karabakh, whose ethnic Armenian population has been fighting for independence from Azerbaijan.

Since launching his rebellion two weeks ago, Mr. Huseynov has seized about half of Azerbaijan's land, forced a government resignation and driven Mr. Elchibey from the capital in fear for his life.

That left power in the hands of parliament Speaker Geidar

Aliyev, Azerbaijan's former Communist boss who has made a comeback in the crisis.

Mr. Aliyev has been negotiating with Mr. Elchibey and Mr. Huseynov. But the rebel commander has stuck by his threat to storm Baku unless Mr. Elchibey formally resigns. He estimated that up to 5,000 fighters sit within 78 kilometres of Baku.

The rebel forces also hold the Azerbaijani territory closest to Nagorno-Karabakh. They are based at Gyandzha, about 80 kilometres north of the battle front. Baku is about 250 kilometres away.

Armenian forces have been pummeling Azerbaijani army troops in the Agdam region just east of Nagorno-Karabakh. Government sources confirmed Sunday that the army bowed to Mr. Huseynov in recent days and asked him to reinforce their troops and weapons, and he agreed.

The reinforcements enabled the army Saturday and Sunday to push Nagorno-Karabakh forces within 6 kilometres back from the region and to eject them from the village Bui Ahmedli, captured earlier this week, said the sources on condition they not be identified.

There was no confirmation from the Armenian or Nagorno-Karabakh sides.

Mr. Huseynov's cooperation

with the military accompanied reports by Western diplomats that he had demanded to be made prime minister and head of security forces.

A rebel spokesman in Gyandzha, Shadman Huseynov, flatly denied this in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. "All he wants is to clear Azerbaijan of Armenians," Mr. Huseynov said.

But the spokesman added that after the crisis, "if the people want him, then they could vote for him in a referendum."

Mr. Aliyev and other officials might oppose a referendum, which also must be approved by the country's unwieldy parliament.

Mr. Elchibey, holed up at his hometown of Ordubad in the remote Nakhichevan region, told reporters Saturday that he was still president and never transferred authority to Mr. Aliyev, who claimed power on television Friday.

"I will continue my job as head of state from Nakhichevan," Mr. Elchibey said. "Aliyev on television took power himself, and that is not right. I am head of state and whoever says that I took the wrong step (by leaving) is mistaken."

Mr. Aliyev denied accusations that he sought to seize power. "What do I have to do when the head of state leaves in an

unknown direction without saying a word to anyone?" he told the ITAR-TASS News Agency.

Mr. Huseynov stuck to his threat to march on Baku if Mr. Elchibey does not resign.

"To tell you the truth, I don't want to go to Baku if it means fighting other Azeris," said Elchin Askerov, a rebel commander at Marasa. "But Elchibey hasn't resigned, he only left. We will do what Surat and the people want."

The rebels took over two more villages west of Baku overnight, and now sit within about 40 miles (65 kilometres) of the city to the northwest and 60 miles (95 kilometres) to the southwest.

Commander Askerov said his men had advanced to the town of about 10,000 people late Friday, breaching government troops along the way. They entered Marasa without firing shot and deposed the pro-Elchibey mayor.

"We talked with the troops, they put their arms down and let us pass," Commander Askerov said.

The oil weekly Nefti Compass in London reported Thursday that oil companies British Petroleum, AMOCO, MCL, Enron and Penzoil were pulling all but skeleton staffs out of Baku.

The companies are working on developing potentially vast oil reserves in the Caspian Sea.



A farmer Sunday helps push a pedicab through a flooded village road in Bangladesh (AFP photo)

Nearly 200 die in Bangladesh floods

DHAKA (R) — Floods wrought havoc across Bangladesh, with the death toll Sunday reported close to 200.

Around a million people were stranded without relief supplies in the worst hit areas. An official, in northeastern district of Sylhet said tens of thousands of villagers there were marooned without food or drinking water, many of them perched on the roofs of their submerged homes.

"We don't have exact figures of casualties or property damage but I can tell you they will be high," he said.

The flooding caused by heavy rain and swollen rivers washing down from the Himalayas has affected more than three million people across the country. Thousands of families have been evacuated by government and

voluntary agencies.

Relief workers said around 200 people were known or presumed to be dead, many of them drowned after boats capsized.

Most of the deaths were reported from the northeast, which by Sunday was still cut off by road and rail.

Railway sources said floodwater washed away nearly 65 metres of tracks at Laskarpur and Shaistaganj and inundated lines at other places.

Road links between Chittagong Port and the Chittagong Hill Tracts have been cut off since Friday when flash floods washed away four small bridges. Landslides blocked the partly inundated highway to Cox's Bazar coastal town.

Along the coast, fisheries pro-

jects were battered by gales, and agriculture officials said more than 300,000 acres (120,000 hectares) of rice and jute crops had been damaged.

"If the floods do not start receding in two days the crops will all rot in the field," one official told reporters.

Meteorological officials said over 200 mm of rainfall had been recorded in the 24 hours until Sunday morning in some areas and rivers were still on the rise.

They expect more showers over the next two days.

Low-lying suburbs of the capital Dhaka were under water.

The government has deployed more than 100 medical teams to fight diarrhoea and other diseases in the flooded areas, health officials said.

Bosnia rivals fight for territory

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Rival forces in Bosnia fought for territory Sunday as European Community (EC) ministers prepared to face failure and accept the republic's division into ethnic mini-states.

Fighting between Muslims, Croats and Serbs, oblivious of a truce their commanders signed last Tuesday, flared across a belt of central Bosnia and artillery and infantry battles for disputed towns drove refugees from their homes.

Despite the fighting, the U.N.

judged it was safe to reopen Sarajevo airport to relief flights after a six-day closure.

But in a setback for the relief effort, Bosnian Serbs at the border with Serbia proper halted the first U.N. aid convoy for a month for the besieged Muslim enclave of Gorazde.

The convoy, which set out from Belgrade, was due to reach Gorazde Monday with 80 tonnes of food and medicine for about 70,000 trapped and starving local people and refugees. Bosnian Serbs said they had no warning

of the convoy was due.

Forces played down a report that the commander of Bosnian government forces in the northern Muslim haven of Tuzla, Izetbegovic, had used chlorine to attack Serbs if the onslaught against Gorazde continued.

He claimed he had enough of the chemical to "neutralise all living forces in almost all of Europe."

U.N. military sources said Muslims did not have the military capability to deliver chemical weapons.

Pyongyang evokes nuclear-free Korea without NPT

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-u said Sunday the Korean peninsula can be guaranteed free of nuclear weapons without Pyongyang's return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He said Friday that the suggestion was made at North Korea's recent talks with the United States which led to the suspension of its withdrawal from the NPT, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Saturday.

"At the talks, we indicated a realistic and most reasonable way of resolving the nuclear problem," Mr. Kang was quoted as saying by the official news agency monitored here.

The proposed method could "guarantee the prevention of nuclear proliferation in conformity with the conditions of our country and the surrounding areas without DPRK (North Korea) returning to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," he was quoted as saying.

North Korea decided in March to quit the NPT as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) stepped up demands to inspect two facilities suspected of concealing materials for making nuclear bombs.

But Mr. Kang said that the possibility of IAEA inspections of North Korean facilities while Pyongyang remains in the NPT is a "serious matter since the parity of the IAEA has become clear."

The North Korean ambassador in Vienna said earlier this month Pyongyang was studying ways to prove the "transparency" of its nuclear power development, analysts here said.

Meanwhile, a Seoul government official said Sunday South Korea will not allow full cooperation with North Korea until Pyongyang allows inspections of its nuclear facilities by the IAEA.

The Yonhap News Agency quoted the official as saying Pyongyang's June 11 suspension of its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty did not go far enough.

Ukrainian premier confronts president

KIEV (R) — Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma has taken off his gloves in a showdown over who runs the Ukraine, accusing President Leonid Kravchuk of robbing his job in an outburst that plunged the country further into uncertainty.

The comments by the industrialist prime minister, who is regarded as the architect of Ukraine's post-Soviet market reforms, came in a speech Saturday in which he pledged for the third time in a month to resign.

The televised speech shattered what had looked like an emerging "sensus in Ukrainian politics after coal miners suspended a 12-day strike and parliament agreed to hold a referendum of confidence in the president and parliament.

It was the prime minister's first open attack on the president, a one-time Communist ideologist, although the two have battled for a month over constitutional powers, and it was difficult to see how the two could work together again after Mr. Kuchma's bitter remarks.

On the other hand, it was difficult to speculate how market reforms would develop without Mr. Kuchma.

Mr. Kuchma, a reluctant convert to politics who has little to say for the niceties of political life, accused Mr. Kravchuk of betrayal by issuing a decree placing himself at the head of the government. He rejected Mr. Kravchuk's order putting him in charge of economic reform as head of an "extraordinary committee."

"I understand that the prime minister is no more because the government is headed by the president," he told industrialists in his native city of Dnipropetrovsk. "Just what am I to do if all my powers of government have been taken away?"

His spokesman, Dmitri

Tabachnik, told Reuters: "I believe Kuchma will not alter his position and will not be willing to serve at the head of such a committee. If the committee is maintained, he will simply leave."

The next act in the drama will take place Tuesday in parliament, whose members have twice persuaded him to withdraw threats to resign. Parliament, although dominated by Soviet-era conservatives, could again rally to Mr. Kuchma's defence and reject his resignation, creating a stalemate.

Alternatively, it could throw out Mr. Kravchuk's decree, cutting the ground from under the president and deepening the crisis.

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Cambodian parties to share defence and interior posts

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's former battlefield rivals will jointly control the powerful army and police force under a power-sharing deal agreed last Friday, a senior government official said Sunday.

The official said the formerly Communist government party and the Royalist FUNCINPEC opposition, which won last month's U.N.-organised election, would share the key defence and interior ministries.

The ruling party would surrender control of foreign affairs and finance to the royalists, the official told Reuters.

Incumbent Prime Minister Hun Sen and FUNCINPEC leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh — enemies through 13 years of civil war — agreed Friday to serve as a

co-chairmen of an interim government that will last up to three months while the newly elected National Assembly writes a constitution.

The Finance Ministry is expected to play an increasingly important role when hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign aid is pumped into the war-ravaged economy.

The official, who asked not to be named, said Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party would keep control of the Information Ministry.

No FUNCINPEC officials were available for comment on the report.

Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh, the son of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, also agreed that the neutral head of state

would be commander in chief of the armed forces in the transition period.

The official said General Tea Banh, the current defence minister, would become vice-minister of defence and his deputy General Ke Kim Yan would be chairman of the chiefs of staff.

On June 10, the military forces of three of the four factions which signed the 1991 Paris peace pact agreed to merge into a new national army.

Diplomats say the government controls 45,000 regulars and 100,000 provincial militiamen, plus the 540,000-strong police force. The fighters of the Royalist faction and the smaller Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) together number about 10,000.

Author Sir William Golding dies

LONDON (AP) — Nobel prize-winning author Sir William Golding, whose classic novel *Lord of the Flies* won acclaim for its chilling story of the descent of marooned schoolboys into barbarism, died Saturday. He was 81.

Golding's first success was his greatest, and he fled from the acclaim to the isolation of his native Cornwall.

Mathew Evans, chairman of Golding's publishers Faber and Faber said the likely cause of death was a heart attack. Golding had been in good health.

"It happened very suddenly," said Golding's son-in-law Terrell Carver, who was with other family members at Golding's home at Perranarworthal in Cornwall.

Golding's Nobel Prize in Literature, won in 1983, was tainted by controversy, when a member of the academy, Swedish writer Artur Lundkvist, publicly declared that Golding was of "no importance whatsoever" internationally.

Golding was forgiving: "He was probably irritated into it by having journalists down his neck," he told the Associated Press at the time.

Golding, who once said his biggest affliction was "the inability to write poetry," was knighted five years ago for his contribution to English literature.

Looking like dour prophet with wreath of white hair and beard, Golding was deeply pessimistic about the human condition. He once described the theme of *Lord of the Flies* as "grief, sheer grief, grief, grief, grief."



Sir William Golding

destroyers and developing an enduring love of the sea.

He was present at the sinking of the German battleship *Bismarck* and at the D-Day invasion, experiences that confirmed the pessimistic view of human brutality so evident in *Lord of the Flies*.

"World War II was the turning point for me. I began to see what people were capable of doing," he once said.

Golding suffered a string of rejections before *Lord of the Flies*, his first work, was published in 1954. It was filmed in 1963.

Eleven more novels followed, including *Rights of Passage* (1980), about life aboard a 19th century ship sailing from England to Australia. It won the Booker Prize, one of Britain's most prestigious literary prizes.

Golding deplored the attention the Nobel Prize brought him.

"Salisbury was a place to which London media types could nip down in an hour and, as it were, have lunch on my back. People were crawling over the hedge," he told the Guardian. "I became a tourist object."

In a tribute Saturday, author Malcolm Bradbury described Golding's work as "peculiarly timeless" and said it provides a powerful comment on human nature.

"Most writers write about social change or current mores but he wrote about the nature of good and evil and the emergence of human beings from Neanderthal man," said Bradbury.

He is survived by his wife Ann, a son and a daughter.

Japan ruling party rebel Hata could be next premier

TOKYO (R) — Japanese ruling party rebel Tsutomu Hata was being tipped Sunday to take over as prime minister if, as seems probable, the July 18 snap election gives a majority to new centre-right forces.

The former finance minister, whose decision to back an opposition no-confidence motion brought down Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government Friday, promised on television to unveil his strategy Wednesday.

Widespread reports said he would take that opportunity to announce his former defection from the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and formation of a rival party committed to reforming Japan's corrupt political system.

"We have no intention of throwing politics into confusion," said Mr. Hata, who heads a faction of 35 pro-reform LDP lawmakers in the lower house.

He added, however: "It's important to put an end to one party rule. That's a part of political reform which could create dynamism."

Prominent pundit Minoru Muroi, speaking in another televised Sunday morning debate, predicted that the elections forced on Mr. Miyazawa would mark the end of nearly 38 years of unbroken LDP rule.

He said the conservative, pro-business LDP could win only about 200 seats in the new 511-seat lower house, against its present 274, and was destined to pass into opposition, albeit as the largest party.

"It will be difficult for the LDP to win more than 40 per cent of the seats, that's about 200," he said.

He predicted that Mr. Hata's new party would win about 100 seats and, along with other moderate anti-LDP groups including perhaps some right-wing Socialists, could form a coalition government.

Mr. Morita said Mr. Hata, 57, would then be favourite to take over as prime minister.

Mr. Hata said his group would consider joining the Socialists, the current main opposition force, and other non-LDP parties to

snatch power.

"But it depends on how serious the Socialist Party can become," he said, stressing it must abandon hard-left policies rendered obsolete by the end of the cold war.

Socialist Party Secretary General Hirotsugu Akamatsu, appearing on the same programme, made no commitment on changing his party's platform but told Mr. Hata: "We are in accord on political reforms."

Viewers switching channels could then have seen Socialist Party Chairman Sadao Yamahana reach with even more warmth to the prospect of post-election cooperation with Mr. Hata.

"It is important to form a coalition government," said Mr. Yamahana, whose thunderous denunciation of Mr. Miyazawa and the LDP's "money politics" set the stage for Friday's climactic government defeat in parliament.

"It will depend on how many seats the Hata faction can win in the general elections," he said.

"But we wouldn't demand important (cabinet) posts simply because (the Socialist Party) has

more seats."

The prospect of any role in government must seem unbearably sweet to a party which last tasted power in a short-lived coalition administration 45 years ago.

While Japan has voted conservative ever since, the Socialists refused to change hardline policies — such as unconditional support for Stalinist North Korea — to make themselves a credible alternative.

Party leaders have tried to update its programme, only to see most reforms blocked by ideologues on key committees.

Analysts debated whether the sudden collapse of LDP dominance would be enough to prompt a change of heart.

The word "reform" is suddenly on everybody's lips.

"Political reform will be the main theme in the general election," Miyazawa aide Koichi Kato said Sunday.

"Anti-LDP slogans will no longer work as viable policies," he added.

UAE gives WHO \$1 million for health prize fund

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has granted the World Health Organisation \$1 million to set up an annual international prize, newspapers said Sunday. They quoted UAE Health Minister Ahmad Ibn Said Al Badi as saying revenue generated from the WHO-managed \$1 million fund will go every year "to individuals or organisations who make significant contributions in the field of health."

Dutch team diving for treasure

LONDON (AFP) — A team of Dutch divers is trying to salvage gold bullion worth at least \$20 million (\$30 million) from an 18th century wreck off the Netherlands coast, newspapers reported. Working with the Lloyd's insurance company of London, the divers have already retrieved artifacts from the British frigate *Lutine*, which sank in a gale in 1799 while carrying an army payroll in gold. Ane Jan Duijn, head of the team, told the Sunday Times that the divers had made "some very interesting discoveries," but declined to say whether they had found the bullion. "I cannot comment on what has been found until we file our report to Lloyd's," Duijn told the Sunday Telegraph. Other divers have retrieved gold worth \$200,000 in the past 200 years and, notably in 1859, the *Lutine*'s bell. Today the bell is an integral part of the Lloyd's institution, ringing once for bad news, twice for good. Lloyd's is said to have made its international reputation by paying up claims promptly after the *Lutine* was salvaged belongs to Lloyd's under British law. But the insurers have agreed to give the divers about 70 per cent of the finds.

British 'Bobbies' could carry guns, commander says

LONDON (R) — British police, renowned for not having to resort to armed force except in the most extreme circumstances, could carry guns routinely within 10 years, the country's top officer said in an interview published Sunday. Metropolitan Police Commissioner Paul Condon told the Independent On Sunday newspaper that police use of guns would be a "creeping process" in response to growing numbers of armed criminals. "There will be more and more specialist units and more and more officers on the streets who will have to be armed," he said. "I don't seek it but... it could happen within 10 to 20 years. I do not believe it is inevitable, but it is probable."

Fathers can recognise newborns by touch — study

NEW YORK (AP) — A new study finds that most fathers can recognise their newborn babies just by stroking the backs of the infants' hands. About 61 per cent of blindfolded dads chose correctly from a group of three babies, much better than the 33 per cent one would expect from pure guessing. Similar results for mothers were reported last year. But the mothers were also shown to recognise their infants by stroking the cheek, whereas fathers in the new study could not, researchers said. The difference might arise because fathers tend to touch their infants' faces far less than mothers do but frequently touch hands during play, said psychologist Marsha Kaatz. The study has been accepted for publication in the international journal *Infant Behaviour and Development*, she said in a telephone interview. Tiffany Field, director of the Touch Research Institute at the University of Miami, said it made sense that fathers shared recognition ability with mothers. But the fact that they showed it with an average of only 6.8 hours of prior direct exposure to the child is "pretty amazing," she said.

S. Korean Zoo animals expected to tighten belts

SEOUL (R) — It's not just South Korean bureaucrats that are suffering from President Kim Young-Sam's call to tighten belts to restore the nation's economic vitality. Zoo animals are sharing the pain. Senior officials get a taste of what Mr. Kim means when those invited to the presidential dining room for a working lunch find themselves munching noodles instead of the more usual prime beef. Hungry humans can top up later. Not so the animals at a zoo in the central city of Taegu. Asked why 29 million won (\$36,000) had been slashed from the animals' food budget for this year, a city official said the cuts were part of the government's austerity campaign, the Korea Herald reported.

U.S. Cup '93

Germany clinch title with win over England

DETROIT (AFP) — World championships Germany beat England 2-1 Saturday to clinch the four-nation U.S. Cup '93 and install themselves as firm favourites for next year's World Cup.

More than 62,000 spectators cheered an impressive performance by the Germans, who have got stronger and stronger as the ten-day tournament has progressed.

For England's beleaguered manager Graham Taylor, the tournament only confirmed what nearly everyone already knew — England will be hard pressed to qualify for next year's World Cup. Before the match Taylor said he planned to experiment with a three-man defence and two wing-backs and he was looking for players who could adapt to such changes.

He found he didn't have them and must now again start searching for a formula that will book England a place to the United States next year.

Taylor played down Germany's domination.

"It was all down to Lothar Matthaus. If he had been playing for England today we would have won. He gave a world-class performance. He was the difference between the two sides," said Taylor.

Despite the novelty of playing the first ever international under cover on normal grass pitch, neither teams seemed to be affected by it.

Stefan Effenberg opened the scoring after only 26 minutes when Matthaus pass set him free inside the English area.

Effenberg, shipped his defender and slid the ball past a helpless Nigel Martyn.

England, despite being totally



Karlheinz Riedle of Germany (right) and Nigel Clough of England go after the ball during their match at the Pontiac Silverdome (AFP photo)

outclassed, drew level only five minutes later when a long-ball from Paul Merson caught the German defence flat-footed.

David Platt found himself alone in the area and made no mistake to head into the far corner, well out of the reach of goalkeeper Bodo Illner.

Ten minutes after the restart Christian Ziege ran through the faltering English defence only to see his shot rebound off the post.

But Monaco-based striker Jurgen Klinsmann was on hand to collect the loose ball and make it 2-1.

Klinsmann's goal made him the

tournament's top scorer.

The 29-year-old said he was "very satisfied" with the victory over England.

"We came here to win. We took the tournament very seriously as we don't have to

qualify for the World Cup. It was a good work out for us," he said.

England's defeat left them languishing in last place with only a single point to their name.

Brazil finished second with hosts the United States third.

Final Standings

	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	3	2	0	1	9	7	5
Brazil	3	1	0	2	6	4	4
United States	3	1	2	0	5	6	2
England	3	0	2	1	2	5	1

Born-again Navratilova hungry for 10th title

LONDON (AFP) — Martina Navratilova may be only four months short of her 37th birthday but as she prepares her bid for a historic tenth Wimbledon title she is only half-joking when she says: "I feel about 23."

Steffi Graf, the major barrier in the way of what could be a farewell triumph for the veteran at this year's All England Championships, was happy to prepare for Wimbledon, which she has been practicing along with her coach.

But for Navratilova there is no substitute for the confidence gained from winning competitive matches.

And it was tournament win number 163 at Eastbourne Saturday — the 11th time she has won there — that left her bubbling with enthusiasm for the task ahead.

Ironically, she was not even supposed to play at the windy seaside resort where she has been part of the June furniture for the last two decades.

But an early exit in Birmingham to Australia's Kristine Radford forced a speedy rethink and it all came good in the end with a confidence-building 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 final win over the rapidly-improving Dutch girl Miriam Oremans.

Fighting back from a set down in the final against an opponent who seemed to be hitting the lines with every other service particularly heartened her.

"That was sweet. I changed it up and did a strategy shift mid-match and it worked. It is as good as I have ever played in the wind,

I served well the whole game and I feel great."

"That certainly did not help," Navratilova said of the Birmingham defeat. "But now I'm back on track. I feel great and I'm hungry right now."

Navratilova, who works closely with Billie Jean King on the mental aspects of her game, feels she has added the ability to adapt to different circumstances.

That could be crucial if she is to avoid her fate last year, when she was beaten in three sets by Monica Seles in the semi-finals after failing to break up the world number one's baseline rhythm.

"It's definitely something I have got better at over the years," Navratilova said.

Navratilova had originally planned to skip Eastbourne because of concern that playing so close to Wimbledon might leave her jaded for the two weeks upon which she has based her entire season.

But despite being forced to play her third round match and quarter-final Thursday, she clearly felt the win here had given her much more than it had cost.

"I felt pretty beat up on Friday after two matches but today it was better than yesterday and that's a good sign," she said after the final.

Navratilova, who sticks rigorously to a demanding fitness programme and no-meat diet, feels she is in better shape than at this time last year.

"I feel I'm moving better and my body feels more balanced," she said. "If there were any doubts about that, Navratilova quashed them with the point took her to 3-2 in the third set Saturday."

Coming in behind a short serve, she had to lurch low to her

backhand side to get to Oremans' blistering return. The ball looped over the net and sat up at mid-court for the Dutch girl to smash what seemed like a certain winner past Navratilova's backhand.

Not only did the American anticipate where the ball was going but, incredibly, she managed to throw herself full length and produce a winning cross court volley.

Oremans, who could barely walk when Navratilova made her Grand Slam debut at the 1973 French Open, could only look on with utter disbelief in her eyes.

"She is still a pretty difficult player to beat," she admitted afterwards. "She has got a good chance to win Wimbledon this year."

Leconte wins first tournament since 1988

In Germany France's Henri Leconte won the Halle grass court tournament Saturday, beating Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev 6-2, 6-3 in the final, for his first tournament success in five years. Leconte, currently ranked 141 in the world, won an event in Brussels in 1988, the same year he reached the final of the French Open.

Saturday's win was some consolation for going out of this year's French Open in the first round, albeit to the eventual winner, Sergi Bruguera of Spain.

Leconte, 29, required only an hour under sunny skies to sweep aside the challenge of Medvedev in front of 9,000 spectators on the centre court.

"It's a great feeling to win a title again after five years," said Leconte on his ninth tournament victory.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHCH
— 1993 Jordan Times Bridge Quiz

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
#J864 43 AKQJ #J84
The bidding has proceeded:
West: North East South
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
What do you bid now?
A.—If partner does not have four spades on this sequence, he has a very good hand. Either way, you want to be in game. Since this is not the sort of suit to wobblyly commit to a spade contract on what might be an unmanageable 4-3 fit, tell partner of your strength by cue-bidding two hearts.
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
#Q665 A10643 AJ10 #3
The bidding has proceeded:
West: North East South
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
What action do you take?
A.—Don't even consider a penalty double when you have four-card support for partner's major suit. And rule out a jump to four spades. That denies much in the way of defensive strength. The way to show your game-opening spade hearts with a cue-bid of three hearts.
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
#43 AQ7 A83 #98762
The bidding has proceeded:
West: North East South
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
What do you bid now?
A.—To compete over a weak two-bid, partner need not have more than a minimum opening bid and good defensive strength. You should overcall, and the obvious action is a bid of two in trump.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#942 AJ52 J82 #A72
The bidding has proceeded:
East: South West North
Pass Pass Pass 1
Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Despite its two aces, this hand is not as good as it looks. Your hand is flat, the lack of diamonds might not be working and even the jack of hearts could be a doubtful asset. We would settle for a conservative raise to two hearts.
- Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
#AQJ865 AJ9752 #Void
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
A.—If your system includes a method of showing a red two-suiter, by all means use it. If not, we suggest you simply overcall two hearts. Two-suited hands are notoriously difficult to describe if you start with a takeout double. Don't worry. You'll get a chance to bid again!
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#1064 Void AKJ1087 #A983
The bidding has proceeded:
East: South West North
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
1 2 3 4
What action do you take?
A.—Partner can't have much, but it would be craver, to pass. The most flexible action available is to double. Since partner has not yet bid, that's far takeout. And since you did not double initially, it suggests you have no more than three spades.

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Phoenix fans have faith in their team

PHOENIX (AP) — Throw a tent over Phoenix, and you'd have the world's largest revival meeting, with Charles Barkley as the preacher.

This gospel has just one tenet — that the Phoenix Suns are destined to win the NBA Championship.

The Suns' ability to survive in the playoffs by winning five games when a loss meant elimination has converted many followers to a mystical point of view. It doesn't hurt that the franchise is in its 25th anniversary season and has a new temple of worship — the America West Arena, which opened in May 1992.

Fans react these days to each new Phoenix victory as if it were a gift from heaven.

An estimated 12,000 people gathered at the airport about 2 a.m. Saturday (0900 GMT) to welcome the Suns back after their 108-98 game-5 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Earlier, they and other thousands filled streets, sports bars and restaurants with the sounds of celebration, as though the Suns had clinched their first title instead of avoiding a loss which would have given the Bulls their third straight.

The win forced a sixth game, and was the first of three Phoenix needs to become the only team to fall behind 3-1 in the finals and come back.

The Bulls are 3-0 in Phoenix this season, but that didn't dampen spirits.

"Michael Jordan can drive his Porsche and his Ferrari and whatever else he wants, because they're not going to win," Suns fan Gladys Olson said.

At a performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar" in Symphony Hall near the arena, battery-powered headsets were evident in every row among patrons of the musical's reunion tour.

The game ended just as the lights went up at intermission after the first act, and the unseen Suns got a standing ovation.

The belief in the miraculous centres around Barkley, introduced when he arrived in Phoenix a year ago as the player who could give the team the backbone it needed to reach the finals and survive.

The Suns fell behind 0-2 to the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round, and coach Paul Westphal turned prophet, predicting his team would win three straight. The prophecy came true when the Suns won in overtime in the fifth game of the series, and Barkley began talking about destiny.

Game 5 was barely over when residents began predicting that their city would come off better than Chicago, where officials mindful of the lawlessness that erupted last year after the Bulls took the title called out the National Guard and put police officers on overtime Friday. Some businesses put plywood over their windows.

"Phoenix is civilised. There won't be any riots," Barkley said. But Jordan said the talk didn't amount to much.

"He's got a different destiny than what he sees. We're destined to win as much as he's destined to win, and right now we've got the one game up," he said.

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Jordan's national team

World Cup preliminaries

Jordan defeat Pakistan 5-0

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN SUNDAY handed Pakistan their eighth loss, scoring a 5-0 victory in the Asian Group A qualifying matches for the 1994 World Cup.

The win kept Jordan in fourth place in the group which also includes Iraq, China and Yemen.

Iraq, who were to face Yemen in the final match late Sunday, have already qualified to the six-team second round to determine the two teams that will represent Asia in the finals in the United States.

The Jordanian team, who have had a series of disappointing results losing 4-0 to Iraq and 4-1 to China in the second leg and scoring their only win 3-1 over Pakistan in the first leg, dominated the match especially in the first half.

Although the team missed the efforts of Ahmad Abdul Qader, Mohammad Al Khazali, Hisham Abdul Mumem and Aref Hussein, due to injury or suspension, Jordan managed to secure an early lead with Subhi Suleiman scoring the first goal in the 14th minute.

The Kingdom's top striker Jiryes Tadros scored the second goal in the 23rd minute. Jordan scored their third and

fourth goals in the final minutes of the first half. Mohammad Al Ashbah netted the 3rd goal from a header, while Ahmad Al Shaqran blasted a powerful shot from well outside the penalty box ending the first half with a 4-0 lead.

Pakistan repeatedly tried to score a face-saving goal. A definite chance was converted a corner kick by defender Firas Al Khalaleh in the 61st minute when goalie Mohammad Abu Daoud was out trying to block shot.

Jordan's Jihad Abdul Mumem lost an easy scoring chance in the 67th minute.

Suleiman made up for that by scoring his second and Jordan's fifth goal in the 70th minute when he received a pass from Jamal Abu Abed and netted in the accurate short to the left of the Pakistani goalie.

A goal by Nart Yadaj in the 75th minute was ruled offside by the referee. Yadaj again tried to add another goal but his shot hit the post. Pakistan's only other chance was blocked by Abu Daoud in the 85th minute.

The winless Pakistani team got a definite scoring chance in the final seconds of the match when the referee awarded them a penalty shot. Abu Daoud, however, blocked his second penalty shot of the tournament ending the match with a morale-boosting win for the Jordanian team who in addition to the burden of being scored for their unimpressive results got a further disappointing surprise when their belongings were stolen including passports and airplane tickets.

Standings after Sunday's 1st match

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iraq	7	6	1	0	27	2	13
China	7	5	0	2	16	3	10
Yemen	8	3	2	3	12	13	8
Jordan	8	2	3	3	15	15	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	2	36	0	0

Mediterranean Games

Syrian gains first gold in track

CAP D'AGDE, France (AP) — Zeid Abouhamed made Syria's first gold in the track a memorable one as he set a Mediterranean Games record in the 400 metre hurdles Saturday.

Abouhamed's time of 49.09 seconds bettered the 49.27 of France's Stephane Caristan set two years ago. Caristan finished eighth Saturday behind Abouhamed.

Syria had won just two bronze medals in track and field since the beginning of the Mediterranean Games in 1951. Once was when Syria hosted the games in 1987 at Lattaquie when Al Hussein Hafez gained third in the men's javelin. A women's relay was the other bronze.

Syria got another medal in the women's heptathlon when Ghada Chouaa placed second behind France's Nathalie Tepe who set another games record with a 6,256 points. Chouaa's 6,186 was a Syrian record.

Chouaa held onto second after she was first disqualified then reinstated in the final 800 metres. A jury of appeals ruled that she did not cut in early and her time was valid.

The jury of appeals already took away a gold medal when a review of the tape revealed that France's Serge Helen fouled on his top jump from Friday. The 8.08-metre (26-foot, 6 1/4) jump was ruled invalid and Greece's Spyros Vasdekis took first with an 8.03-metre (26-foot-4 1/4) effort. Helen was dropped to third with a best of 7.89 metres (25-10 3/4).

France came away with two more golds as Dan Philibert won the men's hurdles and Pierre

Camara took the triple jump, beating teammate Georges Saint rose on the last jump.

Morocco's Abdelaziz Saher and his wife Nouzha Bidouane won gold. Saher took the 3,000 steeplechase in 8:25.24 while Bidouane repeated in the women's 400 hurdles with a mark of 56.09 ahead of teammate Nadia Zatouani.

New republics of Croatia and Slovenia took titles. Croatia's Ivan Mustapic took the men's javelin with a throw of 79.46 metres (260 feet 8 inches). Slovenia's Brigita Bukovec won the women's 100 hurdles in 13.10. Italy's Yuri Chechi added two individual golds to go with his all-around medal in men's gymnastics while France's Eleanore Couffe won two of the four individual women's events.

Italy and France continued to battle for the overall lead in the medal count. France had 25 golds and Italy 21 through 88 events.

RUSH SALE

Volkswagen - Passat (Wagon). Model 1982, brown colour, 5-cylinder, 1800 cc. Duty unpaid
US\$ 2,500.00
Peugeot-504 (Sedan). Model 1982, beige colour. 4-cylinder, 1600cc, (with aircon). Duty unpaid,
US\$ 2,500.00
Contact — Philippine Embassy
Tel. No. 645-161/643-421
After 5:00 p.m. Tel. No. 652605

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Duty unpaid 1987 Daihatsu Rocky, 4x4. 116,000 km. Blue colour, stereo cassette, very good condition.
Price: Only JD 3,500 for quick sale.
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Adel Imam — in
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Shows at 11 a.m., 3:00, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 p.m.
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OPPORTUNITY
KNOCKS
Children's show at 11 a.m.
on Thursdays, Fridays and
Sundays the movie:
The Fox and the Hound
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
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Nabil Al Mashini Theatre
For the first time in Ammah you have a
date with the Nations' Palestinian Theatre
— the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled:
The Assassination of Hantalahah
by artist Saeed Bitar
Shows on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m.
Please book seats in advance
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese defence minister visits Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Lebanese Defence Minister Mohsen Dalloul met in Tehran with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati and briefed him on the latest developments in Lebanon, Iran's state-run news agency reported Sunday. The agency, IRNA, said Mr. Dalloul expressed appreciation for Iranian assistance to Lebanon and "underlined the need for unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist forces from southern Lebanon and for the Lebanese groups to preserve their national unity." Mr. Besharati praised "the heroic resistance of the Lebanese people in defending their homeland" and "voiced Tehran's support for their continued struggle against the aggressions of the Zionist regime." IRNA said Mr. Dalloul also met Saturday with Hassan Firouzabadi, the chief of Iran's joint military staff, and briefed him on the capabilities of Lebanon's army, said the dispatch.

Blast at Israeli range kills Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian youth was killed on Saturday night by an explosion at an Israeli army firing range in the Jordan Valley, military officials said. They said the army was investigating the cause of the blast, which also slightly injured a Palestinian boy who was evacuated by helicopter to hospital. Soldiers at a nearby army base rushed to the scene after hearing the explosion, they said.

First train passes through Channel Tunnel

LONDON (AFP) — The first high speed train crossed from France to Britain via the Channel Tunnel Sunday in a test run. The British Eurostar, with a narrower gauge than French trains, made a slow crossing pulled by diesel locomotives, arriving at Folkestone in southeastern England at 10:20 a.m. (0920 GMT), three hours and 20 minutes after leaving Coquelles in northeastern France. The train, 200 metres long, was carrying 30 engineers on the test run, designed to try out the British terminal and lines.

Man armed with knife seized along papal route

ROME (AFP) — A Polish man armed with a 30-cm knife and a tear-gas grenade was arrested Sunday morning in Foligno, central Italy, minutes before Pope John Paul II was due to pass by. Italian police said. The 33-year-old man, whose identity was not been revealed, was arrested on the route laid out for the Pope on a pastoral visit to the central Italian town. Police said the man had lived in Italy for several years and had a criminal record. He was taken to the local police station for questioning.

Clinton not a strong leader, says survey

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton is not a strong leader, 68 per cent of U.S. voters said in a poll released Saturday. The U.S. News and World Report survey also gave Mr. Clinton a 39 per cent approval rating, while 53 per cent of the 1,000 voters polled gave him job performance a negative review. Forty per cent said they believed Mr. Clinton's leadership abilities were "only fair," while 28 per cent said they were "poor." Twenty-six per cent said his leadership skills were "good" and five per cent said they were "excellent."

Taiwan plans talks with China this summer

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan plans to hold talks with China this summer on a range of issues including the repatriation of thousands of illegal Chinese immigrants, officials said at the weekend. The talks will be the first formal negotiations between the two sides since they agreed at a high-level meeting in Singapore last April to create a system of regular contacts.

Iran cracks down on loose dress

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is launching a new crack-down on women who violate the strict Islamic dress code and will mobilise the entire police force in Tehran, police warned Sunday. A police statement, carried in the press, said that from Tuesday women who disregard the code could face arrest and trial if spotted in the streets or passing cars. The police force would also ensure that "inappropriately-covered women are denied service" in all public and commercial places. Iran has been ruled by Islamic law since the 1979 revolution which toppled the pro-Western Shah. In public, women have to conceal their hair and be covered from head to toe in dark colours. They only have the option of wearing the black chador or long raincoats and scarves. The penalty for improper dress or too much make-up can be beatings but is more often a verbal or written warning and fines.

Comoros president sacks government

MORONI (R) — President Said Mohammed Djohar has dissolved parliament and sacked Prime Minister Said Ali Mohamed and his government in response to a new political crisis in the Comoros. Gendarmes guarded the federal assembly building on Saturday after Mr. Djohar announced the appointment of Ben Sheikh Ahmed, 53, as the new prime minister. The latest crisis in the Indian Ocean island erupted last week when 12 members of parliament proposed a motion of censure against Mr. Ali Mohamed's government, which had been sworn in only a few days earlier. The motion said Mr. Djohar acted unconstitutionally by appointing a prime minister who did not have the support of a majority in the assembly after the previous prime minister, Ibrahim Halidi, had lost a confidence vote.

Rebels refuse to free Sri Lankan prisoners

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil guerrillas fighting for independence in Sri Lanka refused Sunday to free 38 policemen and a soldier they captured three years ago until new rebel demands were met, a senior Defence Ministry official said. "Earlier they (the rebels) promised to free the prisoners unconditionally," said the official. "But when our emissary met them they put forward new demands." The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, fighting for a separate state for Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority, were widely expected to free the prisoners Sunday after talks in the rebels' northern Jaffna stronghold with the International Committee of the Red Cross and a Sri Lankan army officer. The Defence Ministry official said the officer was on his way back with the guerrillas' new demands.

Gaidar to lead reformist party

MOSCOW (AFP) — Yegor Gaidar, the architect of Russia's economic reforms who was ousted by hard-liners, was elected Sunday to head a fledgling pro-reform group, a news agency reported. Mr. Gaidar will lead the All-Russian Bloc of Reform Supporters, which will campaign for reformist candidates in parliamentary elections expected later this year, member Galina Starovoiitova told the Interfax news agency. The organisation was founded two days after President Boris Yeltsin's aides announced they were forming the Party for Russian Unity and Accord, also to campaign for reformist candidates. The groups were separate, but their aims and even membership likely would overlap in preparation for elections. Mr. Yeltsin has suggested holding October elections to replace the Soviet-era Congress of People's Deputies.

Pathologist examines London gay stalker victims

LONDON (R) — Top British pathologist is to re-examine the bodies of four of the five victims of a killer terrorising London's gay community as part of a search for vital evidence. Dr. Ian West will be the first pathologist to compare all the bodies when he examines them on Monday. One of the victims has already been cremated. Scotland Yard said police were assembling information gleaned from some 50,000 marchers in the capital's gay pride rally on Saturday. "A number of people approached the police during the march with information," she said. Victims frequented bars and clubs in London's gay scene and are thought to have been strangled or suffocated, some possibly after involvement in sado-masochistic sex at the victims' homes. The killer has vowed in telephone calls to police to kill one gay man a week.

Atmosphere tense in Israeli-Lebanon talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The atmosphere is tense in Israeli-Lebanese sessions of the Middle East peace talks here, with the two sides trading accusations.

The Israelis complain that Lebanese negotiators are simply doing what the Syrians tell them, while the Lebanese accuse the Israelis of hegemonic ambitions and say the first thing to be done is for Israel to acknowledge that it is an occupying force in southern Lebanon.

Paradoxically, tension has risen in the Israeli-Lebanese talks at a time when both sides in the Israeli-Syrian session have been at pains to avoid the bitter tone of previous negotiating sessions.

Israeli and Syrian delegates have repeatedly stressed the serious, and even pleasant, tone of their meetings during the current 10th round of Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks which began in Washington on Tuesday.

But after Israeli-Lebanese talks Thursday, the head of the Lebanese delegation, Souheil Shammas, called for a change of mentality by the Israeli side saying they would have to acknowledge that they were an occupying power in southern Lebanon before the talks could make any progress.

"It is a fact, the negotiations with Lebanon are the most strained. After 19 months of talks and 70 meetings, we are back at the starting point," Israeli delegation head Uri Lubrani told AFP. He ruled out any recognition by Israel that it is occupying Lebanese territory.

"This demand is all the more surprising because it comes at a time when 90 per cent of Lebanese soil is occupied by another country," he added, in a reference to Syrian forces in Lebanon.

He challenged Lebanon to prove that it could ensure security along its border with Israel. "The Lebanese claim they are capable of preventing attacks against Israel."

"We are sceptical, but we are nonetheless ready to allow ourselves to be persuaded if they show us proof," he said.

Mr. Lubrani stressed that Israel "has no territorial designs on Lebanon" and that Israeli troops would leave southern Lebanon "as soon as Israel's security is assured in the framework of a peace agreement."

Police blame Al Jihad for deadly Cairo nail bomb

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian police Sunday blamed the outlawed Muslim fundamentalist group Al Jihad for the nail-packed bomb in a busy Cairo slum that killed seven people and wounded 20.

In southern Egypt, disposal experts defused a time-bomb packed with nails four minutes before it was set to explode in a busy street of Aswan's commercial district, police said.

Al Jihad was also behind a bomb attack May 21 near a Cairo police station that killed seven as well as a tour bus bombing on June 8, in which two Egyptians died and six British holidaymakers were wounded.

Al Jihad, an offshoot of Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah at the forefront of a year-long wave of violence in Egypt, assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Algerian premier seeks dialogue with militants

ALGIERS (AP) — Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Salam said he is in favour of dialogue with militants of the banned Muslim fundamentalist movement as long as they are not part of the extremist battle against Algeria's leadership.

The unprecedented remarks Friday night on state-run television mark a major departure from the hard line of the country's military-backed leaders since they came to power 18 months ago.

Mr. Abdul Salam, considered an especially strong opponent of compromise, said sympathisers of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) must not be considered "enemies."

"I say it in all frankness: 'The three million Algerians who voted for the front are not enemies but citizens who, in good conscience, made choices which would be hurtful to the country,'" Mr. Abdul Salam said in an address to the National Conference of Children of the Chochohada, those who died in the independence war with France.

It appeared to signify a new carrot and stick approach to dealing with fundamentalists. The moderate tone comes in the midst of a stepped-up campaign against armed extremists, whom Mr. Abdul Salam called "criminals... who will be fought until they are exterminated."

framework of a peace agreement."

Israeli delegation members said that before any withdrawal Israel would also need to be assured of the security of the South Lebanon Army (SLA), which acts as support for the Israeli army in the Israeli-organised "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Lubrani said that problems associated with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 could only be resolved in the context of a peace accord.

Resolution 425, approved in 1978, called for an immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.

The resolution also established the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) "for the purpose of confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restoring international peace and security and assisting the government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area."

Clashes in S. Lebanon

Unidentified guerrillas fired 12 Katyusha rockets into northern Israel and Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon Sunday, security sources and Israeli officials said.

No casualties were reported from the violence, which erupted at 2:40 p.m. (1550 GMT). It topped off a barrage of retaliatory shelling from Israel and its militia ally in South Lebanon.

Security sources said the guerrillas pounded the village of Beit Leef inside the zone with mortar fire and rocket-propelled grenades before firing 12 Katyushas. They said Israeli troops and SLA militiamen struck back on the predominantly villages of Yater and Kafra with at least 40 rounds of mortar and tank fire and Howitzer shells.

A U.N. officer with the peacekeeping force in South Lebanon said several rounds of Howitzer shells fell harmlessly near a Nepalese observation post just south of Yater.

In Israel, an army spokesman said a number of Katyushas landed in northern Israel's Galilee hinterland. He said there were no injuries and it was still being investigated whether there was any damage from the attack.

There was no immediate responsibility claim for the Katyusha attack.



RELIEF MOVES: Dockers Sunday unload a cargo of sacks of American maize at Mogadishu port (AFP photo)

Iraq seeks to ease sanctions

MANAMA (AFP) — Iraq is aiming to ease a three-year-old economic embargo imposed by the United Nations by bargaining over U.S. demands that surveillance cameras be installed at missile test sites near Baghdad.

"Our destiny is to go all the way... and act decisively to break the embargo," the Baghdad newspaper Babel, run by the president's son Uday Hussein, insisted Sunday.

Iraq has offered to consider the demand of U.N. arms inspectors to set up cameras at two missile test sites if the United Nations agreed to examine the lifting of sanctions in force since Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Babel dismissed a U.N. Security Council warning and charged that a critical report drawn up by Rolf Ekeus, head of the commis-

sion for disarming post-war Iraq, was "full of lies" and concocted by Washington to harm the Iraqi people.

On Friday, following the Ekeus report, the Security Council accused Baghdad of continuing to violate U.N. ceasefire resolutions and warned that failure to comply could have serious consequences.

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq was refusing to allow U.N. experts to set up cameras at Yawm Al Azim and Rafah, 65 kilometres south of Baghdad and to transport chemical weapons-related equipment to a designated site for destruction.

But Baghdad insists it has cooperated with U.N. disarmament resolutions and that the Security Council should re-examine lifting the embargo.

"Iraq is only demanding a legal and technical evaluation of what has already been executed" to implement Resolution 687 on the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction, the official Iraqi News Agency said.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz is expected to present Iraq's case for an easing of the sanctions at a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali in Geneva Tuesday.

Sheikh Saad meets Hakim

Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah Monday held talks with Iraqi opposition leader Mohammad Bakr Al Hakim, the Kuwait News Agency reported.

Sheikh Hakim, leader of the Iran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) arrived Saturday.

Israel debates cutbacks to settlers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cabinet debated Sunday whether to cut back aid to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories because of the peace talks.

The finance minister proposed that the government discontinue earlier plans for long-term investments in the occupied territories, Health Minister Haim Ramon told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's proposal, first voiced last week in the Golan Heights, has already stirred controversy.

Agriculture Minister Yaacov Tsuri, who represents a government's right wing, and Israel Radio that curbing investment would pre-empt Israeli negotiators at the U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks.

"Saying we are not investing does political damage before we even know where the negotiations will go," Tsuri said.

But Mr. Ramon countered that long-term investment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, occupied since 1967, was not a good bet because peace talks are focusing on territorial "compromise."

"The government decided that we accept the principle of withdrawal on the Golan Heights, so it wouldn't be very wise to invest long-term for ten or 20 years," he said.

In January, the Labour Party-dominated government reversed years of Likud government backing for the settlements, saying instead it would focus on sparsely-populated areas within Israel.

But its plans still included giving more priority to economic development in settlements in the Golan Heights, the West Bank's Jordan Valley and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Shohat's proposal would effectively reverse that plan. Israel has yet to declare the dimensions of any withdrawal from the Golan, although it has

committed itself to "territorial compromise."

Israeli negotiators say they are waiting for the Syrians to define the terms of the peace before Israel declares the dimensions of a withdrawal.

Despite continued investment in expanding settlements and the road networks between them, Jewish settlers have accused the government of trying to delegitimise them by drying up future funds. Last Thursday, some 10,000 settlers demonstrated against giving up the territories.

Foreign Ministers Shimon Peres said the government did not need to delegitimise the settlers.

"Elton John and Bob Dylan are delegitimising them," he told Israel Radio Saturday, referring to appearances by the rock stars in Israel last Thursday. "The settlers have their 'mass protest' and hardly attract 10,000 people. John sold tickets — and got 35,000."

Second Bosnian batch arrives

(Continued from page 1)

Many refugees released from detention were reunited with family members in Croatia with help from international organisations, but thousands are still searching for their loved ones.

Some refugees who were originally scheduled to fly to Amman refused to board the chartered Royal Jordanian flight saying they were still seeking their family members in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, official said.

In the meantime, those who arrived are trying to forget their nightmare, but it is not easy. "Women are raped and mutilated and men are brutally beaten up and dismembered," recounted Sylvia Terziech, a 55-year-old native of Prijedor village in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"They (Serbs and Croats) cut off women's breasts, stick rifles between their legs and cut them with bayonettes," said Mrs. Terziech, whose husband, Darwish, bore visible marks of torture and severe beating.

"They beat me up, robbed me and then broke my jaw," said Mrs. Terziech.

Mrs. Terziech said among the "dozens of rapes" that she had to witness included that of her sister-in-law, who "was murdered after the act."

The Terziechs, speaking through an interpreter, recounted gruesome scenes where bellies were split open and hands were chopped off. "Hands and ears were cut off to remove 'jewellery,'" said Mrs. Terziech.

"Many had crosses drawn in blood on their chests with knives," she said.

Officials of the Jordan Hashemite Charitable Orga-

nisation (JHCO) and Bosnian residents of Jordan who have volunteered to help the refugees said some of those arriving in Jordan had their eyes gouged out during their detention while others had lost their limbs.

"They required immediate medical care and were rushed to hospital," said Mohammad Midah, an official of the JHCO. Twenty-two of the refugees are hospitalised, with at least four of them suffering from severe neurotic problems, he said.

Gesturing to Sunday's arrivals, who were awaiting allocation of rooms at the Umm Teenah government school — which will be their temporary home — Mr. Midah said: "Most of these people are too traumatised or tired to speak of their experiences now."

JHCO officials said several of the women were victims of gang-rapes by Serbs or Croats, but were not willing to talk about their ordeal to anyone.

A middle-aged woman stood in a corner, staring into space. Questions drew no response.

"She saw her husband and family butchered in front of her," said Zahid Ahmad, a Bosnian student and resident of Jordan since 1987.

Many others looked haunted and three furtive glances around as if unable to comprehend that they were finally out of danger. "It will take some time before they get their bearings and able to talk to you," Mohammad Abu Seif, a senior official of JHCO and head of the camp, told reporters.

Toddlers played around in the corridors enjoying their newfound freedom and security while elder children carried their scant belongings to the hardboard partitioned living

quarters inside the classrooms in the three-storey building equipped with all basic amenities and primary health-care facilities.

Army engineers were at work setting up more facilities on the ground floor.

Many Yugoslav women and their Jordanian husbands who have had their education in Yugoslavia are in the forefront of voluntary services to help the refugees.

"Jordan is a small country, but it has a big heart," said Yasmin Kurdi, one of the volunteers and a resident of Jordan for the past 17 years.

"The government has already prepared all the necessities," said Mrs. Kurdi. "We want to see how we can offer further help, to know whether they need clothes or money."

Mrs. Kurdi and JHCO officials said several Serbian Christian women were among the volunteers. "There are no (ethnic-oriented) problems for them to render help," Mrs. Kurdi said.

The Bosnian refugees came to Jordan in line with an agreement between the governments of the Kingdom and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In addition to housing and feeding them, the JHCO, helped by the government as well as private citizens and organisations, is also arranging education for the children in the group.

The curricula will include Arabic, English and Bosnian languages as well as Islamic studies. No accurate split-up was available on the number of men, women and children in the group since the details were being processed Sunday, but they represent more than 80 families.

COLUMN

Billionaire gives record \$100m gift to school

HIGHTSTOWN, New Jersey (R) — As the biggest gift ever given to an American secondary school, billionaire publisher Walter Annenberg is donating \$100 million to the little-known boyhood boarding school from which he graduated 66 years ago. Officials of the Peddie School here said the gift is part of a huge \$365 million donation by the Annenberg Foundation to Peddie, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Southern California. Harvard will receive \$25 million, Peddie \$100 million and the University of Pennsylvania and USC will each get \$120 million, the foundation said. Only one American university has received more in a single donation — the \$125 million given to the Louisiana State University in 1981 by Claude Pennington. The Annenberg funds eclipse the \$60 million given to Columbia University earlier this year by John Kluge, the chairman of the Metromedia Co. The unprecedented \$365 million gift comes just one month after Mr. Annenberg, 85, who owns one of the biggest collections of post-impressionist art in the world, paid \$57 million for a Van Gogh painting — Wheat Field With Cypress — and donated it to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. A source at the Annenberg Foundation dismissed suggestions that the gift was Mr. Annenberg's "last hurrah," saying the foundation still had assets of around \$1.6 billion. Fortune magazine recently listed Mr. Annenberg, one of America's most prolific philanthropists, in 80th position on its list of the world's richest people, with an estimated personal wealth of \$2.5 billion.

Joan Crawford Oscar sells for \$68,500

NEW YORK (R) — The only Oscar awarded to Hollywood legend Joan Crawford in her 45-year career was sold to a private collector at auction for \$68,500, the first such sale of an Academy Award presented to a major star. The Oscar was awarded to the late actress for her performance as a housewife who turns into a successful businesswoman in the 1945 film Mildred Pierce. The sale by Christie's auction house was for five times the pre-sale estimate of \$8,000 to \$12,000. The sale of the Oscar statuette is frowned upon by Academy of the Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The academy's President Karl Malden said last year that the awards "should not become objects of mere commerce." Crawford's Oscar was part of a wide range of items from her estate including congratulatory telegrams, personal effects and bound scripts of a number of her films. The Mildred Pierce script, based on the novel by James M. Cain, had been estimated to fetch \$200 to \$400 and sold for \$7,475. "The interest in the property from the estate of Joan Crawford has been tremendous," head of Christie's Collectibles Department Joshua Arfer said. Crawford, who died in May 1977 at the age of 73, was one of Hollywood's biggest stars during its golden era, with some 80 film credits including Humoresque in 1946 and 1947's Possessed. Her reputation suffered in later years as she appeared in second-rate horror films. She was scathingly portrayed by Faye Dunaway in the 1981 film Mommie Dearest, based on a biography by daughter Christina. Friends of Crawford disputed the characterisation.

Thailand complains about Time cover

BANGKOK (AFP) — The Thai government has criticised Time magazine for publishing a picture of a Thai bar girl on the cover of its current issue, which contains a story about prostitution around the world, a news report said Saturday. The Foreign Ministry has instructed its envoy to the United Nations in New York to lodge a complaint with the New York-based news magazine, said Ravee Hongrapas, the ministry's deputy spokesman. "The inside story, entitled The Skin Trade, was about prostitution around the world. Why did Time choose a picture of a Thai girl for the cover?" Mr. Ravee told the Nation newspaper. The Thai government has long acknowledged its problem and is trying hard to deal with it, the English-language daily quoted Mr. Ravee as saying. The Time cover story and a shorter story on child prostitution ran over 15 pages in the June 21 edition, to coincide with the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. The main story details the spread of prostitution around the world.